

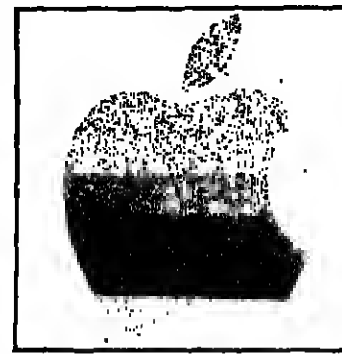
THE STAR'S

WORK
COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Apple Expo. '92 to be held next month

IDEAL SYSTEMS, distributors of Apple Computer Inc. in Jordan, are planning to hold their annual Apple Expo. next May. The show is aimed at presenting to the public the latest Apple products and promoting the computer sector in Jordan. The show will include all the latest hardware and software for the Macintosh including the Macintosh PowerBook, Classic II, the Macintosh Quadra range of computers and the latest in Macintosh software.

Just like last year's show, there will be seminars at the rate of three or four a day, given by company employees and guests. The expo. will follow the Apple tradition of entertainment, educational, business and multi-



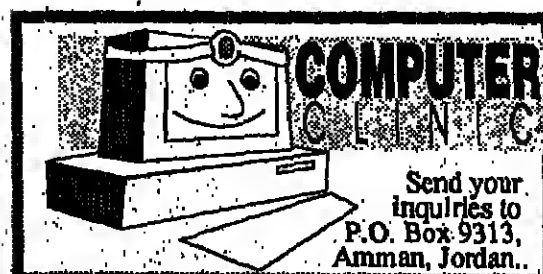
media booths. The show should be a treat for Jordanian computer users. We'll provide you with a more comprehensive report on the Apple Expo. '92 soon, so watch this space.

N E W S

■ The big news is that Apple Computer Inc. are slashing the prices of their current range of Macintosh computers by up to 37 per cent. This move is an attempt by Apple to double its market share which stands at around 20 per cent at the moment. Apple succeeded in increasing its quarterly earnings at the end of 1991 by 10.2 per cent, around \$166 million, compared

to the year before.

■ Intel Inc. has surpassed its major competitor in the American chip market, Motorola. Figures show that Intel's sales reached \$14 billion last year. Still, the international chip market is led by six Japanese companies followed by three American ones, including Intel, and the European company Philips.



Send your inquiries to P.O. Box 9313, Amman, Jordan.

Q: I am a Macintosh owner who is very interested in desktop publishing. In Arabic. I have obtained a copy of "Al-Nashar Al-Sahafi" and I have run into a problem. How can I view the pull-down menus in English? Once the program begins, it only allows you to view these menus in Arabic.

Jamali Al-Sayyed, Khilida.

A: First of all, Jamali, I would like to congratulate you on your choice of DTP software. As for your problem, there is a simple solution. You should exit "Al-Nashar Al-Sahafi" and open the appendices folder found in the folder of "Al-Nashar Al-Sahafi". In this folder, you will find an appendix file called "International Annex". All you have to do is simply drag this file out of the folder and run the program again. You should now be able to view the menus in the English language.

COMPUTER COMPANIES

★ You are invited to share in your news and activities with our readers.

Fax your messages to us on 648298 or write to P.O. Box 9313 Amman.

IBM offers three new services for computer users

IN A step to improve the company's image and to strengthen its ties with the computer society, IBM has announced the establishment of three services to assist users in the United States in different fields.

First, there's the Help-Learn service which is a nationwide program of educational centers led by IBM-licensed and certified trainers offering courses ranging from multi-media to OS/2.

The next service is called Help-Buy which is an expansion of finance and leasing programs. IBM will be offering buyers of even one machine the ability to get finance from IBM Credit-Corp.

The third and last service is the Help-Center which should act as the clearing house for all problems faced by users with IBM systems. It will offer support from 9 am to 5 pm daily. This is part of IBM's large-scale re-organization, aiming at making the company more competitive.

JCS elections next Sunday

THE JORDAN Computer Society (JCS) has invited its general assembly

of members to attend its annual meeting on Sunday 23 April, after which the next board of directors is to be elected.

According to the society's regulations, any member who has been with the JCS for over a year has the right to run for the elections. The society was established in 1986 and now includes over 500 members working in the Jordanian computer sector.

The positions on the board are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three members. The current president of the society is Mr. Fayez Al-Qudsi.

MEC: The struggle for acceptance

LOOKING AT the book shelves of your local newsagent makes one wonder why we don't have any Jordanian computer magazines. It's only logical to assume that there is a decent market for computer magazines in the country, since almost every other computer user you know reads them. It would also be very interesting to see a magazine that handles the local computer market rather than suffer the headache of having to read about the news of Egyptian, Saudi, British or American computer markets. Don't get me wrong, these are all important and interesting markets, but what's the use of reading about them if you don't know what's going on at home?

Some newspapers have taken the initiative of including weekly computer pages or special computer supplements, but the need for dedicated publications to handle the news of an ever expanding market like ours is quite important. In fact, computer journalism has proven to play a major role in the development of local computer markets worldwide.

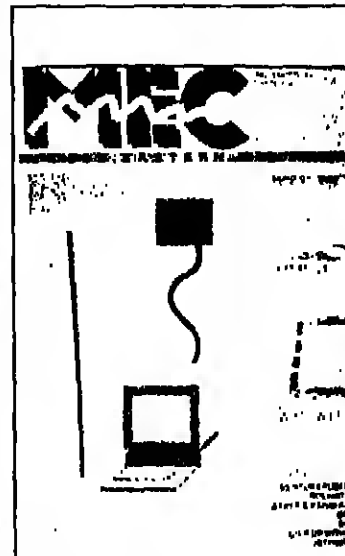
If you were present at the Amman Computer Expo. '91, you would probably have come across a magazine called Middle Eastern Computing (MEC). It was difficult not to notice it since it was being sold at the door, JD 1 per copy, and was being promoted inside by a group of enthusiastic youth who were responsible for creating it. If you did manage to get your hands on a copy of that issue, dated 15 November, has it not crossed your mind that you haven't seen the magazine since? Where were the following issues? Believe it or not, a second issue has been ready and waiting for the last four months. The magazine was denied a license by the law.

We aren't going to be discussing the achievements of Jordanian youth in this week's column because there seems to be the more important topic of the unfair laws governing the release of licenses for scientific or specialized magazines.

Imagine the MEC team's shock to find out that in order to qualify for a license they had to meet the following terms, among others: a) the applicant must carry a university degree related to the magazine's category. In other words, anybody who's even thinking of setting up a computer magazine should have a degree in computer science, electronic or computer engineering, b) a capital of at least JD 15 000 is required which is to be placed in a bank account as collateral, and c) the magazine must be registered under the name of an adult of 23 years of age at least.

How many people who own computer companies in this country actually have a computer related degree? Is the idea to protect the rights of those who have computer degrees to publish computer magazines? Wasn't it enough to provide guarantees that the magazine would be technical, rather than professional and would include articles written by those who did carry degrees in computer science?

Isn't it now slightly clearer why we don't have any Jordanian computer magazines? It's a pity to see some people make a bold attempt to venture into the highly unstable world of computer journalism, only to find that they can't get the required support. It's not even support — providing these people with the chance to start is the least the law can do. We're not asking for the whole law regarding publications to change, but it would seem logical to revise some aspects of this law. We hope that the new law, which is expected to be discussed during the next session of parliament, will take these facts into consideration and will help promote such initiatives rather than reject them. Until that happens, the MEC team will be looking for a financier, somebody over 23 who so happens to carry a degree in computer science and has JD 15 000 lying around. Any offers?



The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 23 APRIL — 29 APRIL 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 6

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■ Microsoft focuses on Jordan

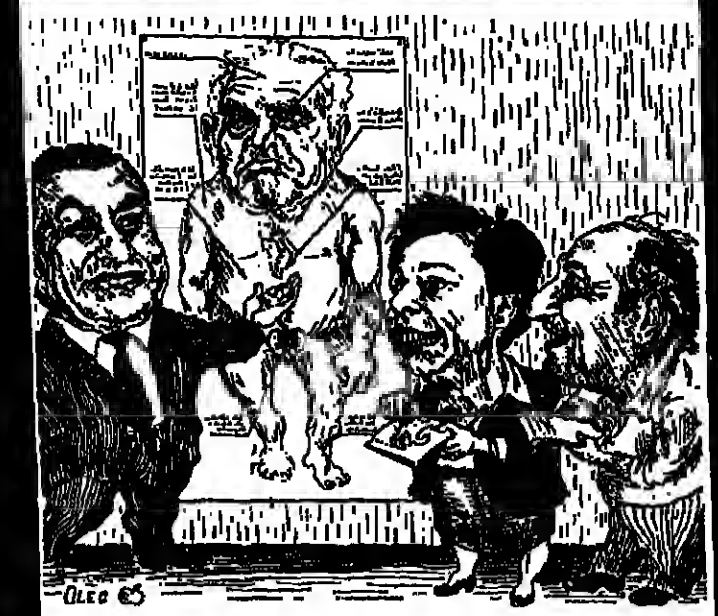
■ What's wrong with JCS?

■ Computer clinic

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JORDANIAN WEEK

Jordanian deputies praised the abrogation of the Defense Law of 1935 and the Royal Decree approving the new Defense Law of 1992. Head of the Legal Committee in the Lower House, Mr Hussein Mjall, said the cancellation of extraordinary laws in Jordan is an important event unmatched in a region full of tyranny and authoritarian rule. The cancellation of the 57-year-old Defense Law of 1935 effectively buried all emergency defense regulations that have been issued on its basis. Mr Mjall said the new law will not be used until the country faces emergency situations as specified in the Constitution. Martial law can only be declared by the King in accordance with articles 124 and 125 of the Constitution. The 1935 law was adopted during the British Mandate and remained in use throughout the history of the Kingdom. It was called the Defense Law of Transjordan of 1935.

Another deputy, Mr Salim Zoubi, told Petra news agency, that what distinguishes the new law from the old one is the fact that it made its use conditional to situations, areas and dates as

specified in the Constitution. He added that unlike the old law, the new one does not permit the exile, deportation or prohibition from entry of Jordanian citizens. The maximum penalty for breaking the new law is a three year jail sentence and a fine of JD 3,000. But probably the most progressive article in the new law is that it gives Jordanians the right to contest any action taken under emergency rule before the Supreme Court.

Minister of Supply Mr Mohammad Al Saqqaf has told members of a Tunisian trade delegation that Arabs should not give up hope of establishing Arab common markets in spite of frustrations now visible on the Arab scene. He said there is a need for the setting up of Arab economic structures to deal with international counterparts like those in Europe.

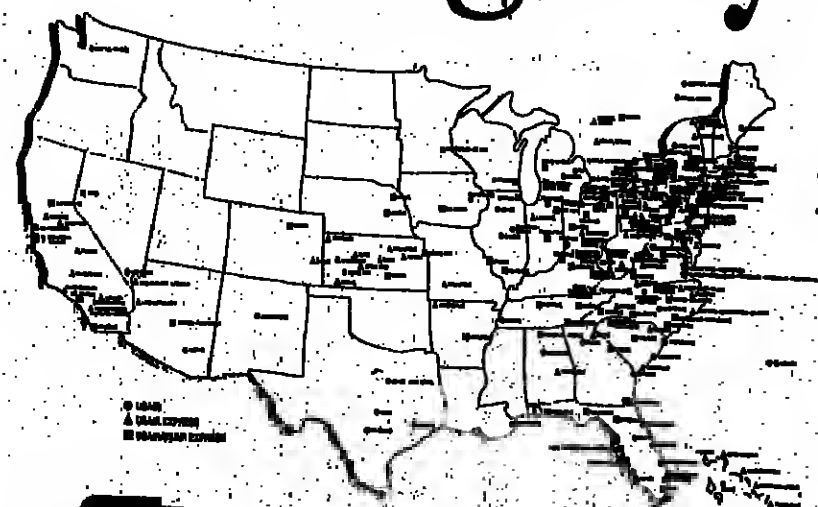
The General Director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. (JPMC) Mr Thabet Taher has been named as president of the board of directors of the new Joint Indian-Jordanian Chemicals Co., which held its first

meeting in Jordan this week. The company's CEO is Mr Babu Ver-shi. The board discussed the organizational structure of the company and its budget and objectives for the first year. Financing for the company's activities will come from Jordan's phosphate exports to India and from international creditors. The company will produce phosphoric acid at a new plant with a production capacity of 208,000 tons annually to meet Indian market demand. The plant will be built in the special industrial free zone of Shidyeh.

A social sciences professor at the University of Jordan has told Ad-Dustour newspaper that the divorce rate in Jordan has risen, especially in the first years of marriage. Dr Mohammad Al Duqas said the reason for this could be the lack of understanding between the couple during the pre-marriage period and because matchmaking by parents is still a dominant factor in arranging marriages.

According to Dr Al Duqas, 31,508 marriage contracts were made in 1989 compared to 36,524 in 1991, but divorce contracts jumped from 4694 in 1989 to 6400 in 1991. He cited a definite relation between the number of divorces and the marriage years. In 1990 the number of divorces in under one year marriages were 1571, while only 128 divorces were registered for marriages that lasted for more than 20 years.

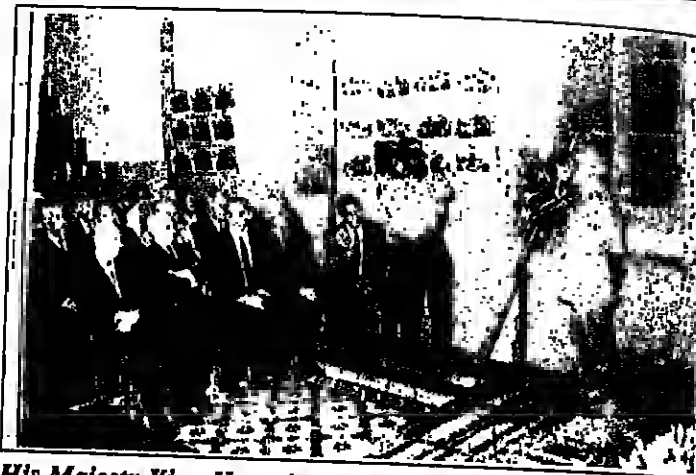
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USAir
EXPRESS

23 APRIL 1992



His Majesty King Hussein addressing dignitaries during his visit to the Salt Secondary School on Tuesday

Archaeologists learn to have a good time

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

AFTER FOUR days of conference halls, participants in the fifth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan were clearly happy to be out "in the field" on Friday when around fifty of them joined the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) for a tour of Salt and a picnic excursion to Jallad.

The visit to Salt began with a splendid welcome from Bsiqs governor Mr Faleh Al Gharabeh, and the officials and boy scouts of the city. The governor's short but thorough introduction to the Balqa governorate and to Salt was followed by a performance by the Salt folk troupe and local musicians. Then architects Ranwa Al Khatib and Leon Fak-houri, both from Salt themselves, battled bravely to lead around 180 Friends and guests on a walking tour of the city.

The focus was on fine old buildings, constructed in Salt's heyday between 1860 and 1918 when it was home to the Ottoman Qaim Mah-bam or governor, of the region. The city is now under heavy pressure from modern development, but happily the first two houses the group visited are in the process of restoration.

The Toukan House, built in 1860, is to become the Salt town hall, while another of Salt's earliest houses, the Balt Kakish will take on new life as Madafah for the Kakish family. The fate of the English hospital, the first hospital in Jordan, which was completed in 1905, is still unsettled. Ranwa Al Khatib and her colleagues at the Royal Scientific Society, who have been working on a development plan for Salt, would like to see it as a hotel. They also have high hopes that the splendid Abu Jabr house will one day be a heritage centre, serving as a living example of Salt's varied architectural styles, and a reminder of the city's early role as Jordan's capital.

With their appetites enlivened by the walking, the Friends went on to FoA President Ghazi Saudi's farm at Jallad for a picnic lunch. Ghazi and his wife Maris Bruni have worked hard to turn Jallad into a show-case which combines a carefully tended natural landscape with lovingly preserved antiquities, which include one of Jordan's oldest Umayyad mosques, Ayyubid and Mamluke tombs, Roman cisterns and olive presses.

The body of experts included botanist Dr Daoud Issawi and his wife Sawzan, director of planning at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs Muzahem Muhaisen and a number of his architect colleagues, Islamic specialist Dr Ghazi Bishah and, of course, many archaeological experts.

Keeping the group together throughout this day was a challenge to the organizing skills of FoA treasurer and chief traffic manager Munas Zaghoul who, as usual, did a splendid job, managing only to lose herself during a long and enjoyable day.

The next FoA outing is a visit to Um Qais on 1 May. Departure is as usual at 9:00 am from the Amra Hotel. ■

Picnicking in Jallad



The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Wanted

Sub-editors to work full-time. Applicants must be Jordanian nationals, university graduates, preferably in English or journalism. Proficiency in English is a must. No previous experience necessary. Applicants should write to the Editor, The Star, POB 9313, Amman, with all pertinent documents.

23 APRIL 1992

JORDAN

THE STAR 3

On the eve of the 5th bilateral Palestinian peace delegates learn to maximize their bargaining power

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

LAST WEEK, Palestinian scholars, politicians and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks met with their Egyptian counterparts in Cairo. Participants were invited to discuss past and future strategies and negotiating skills, while Egyptian politicians and diplomats submitted papers about the peace process and their experience in negotiating with the Israelis.

The purpose of the visit to Egypt was to carry out an intensive program of analysis, to hold extensive discussions, to evaluate previous rounds, and to work out strategies for future ones. Members of the Palestinian delegation met with Egyptian officials including Foreign Minister Amr Musa, and Esmat Abdul Majed, secretary general of the Arab League.

Arriving in Jordan, en route to the occupied territories, Dr Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman to the Palestinian delegation, and delegation member Dr Sa'eb Erekat, spoke to The Star about the nature of their visit to the Egyptian capital.

They described the Cairo seminars as part of an on-going effort to improve the performance of the Palestinian delegation. "In order to maximize its potential skills, the delegation has instigated a comprehensive effort, so as to carry out its tasks favorably," said Dr Ashrawi.

Dr Erekat said there were three major objectives behind the visit to Egypt. Firstly, it was an opportunity to exchange working papers between Egyptian and Palestinian scholars on the trends of change in the Arab world, the new world order, and the next seven years in the life of the Arabs. The second objective concerned their meeting with Egyptian officials, since the peace process is not to be confined to the four partners immediately involved, namely Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. A third objective, he said, was to express the need for Arab coordination and to erase the bitter feelings created as a consequence of the Gulf War.

"This was not a training session for the Palestinians, but a means of brain-storming and of sharing experiences," he said. Dr Ashrawi also highlighted the significance of learning from all experience.

Involving conflict situations which have resulted in resolutions. "It is not only important to understand Israeli psychology and strategy," she said, "but also to understand different aspects of the negotiating process itself."

She also added, "We met with Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak, and discussed current conditions, including the status of the negotiations and Israeli measures in the occupied territories — especially settlement activities, and thanked the Egyptian effort in locating President Yasser Arafat's plane, and for the medical aid extended to him."

With regards to the nature of the Palestinian delegation, Dr Ashrawi said the delegation is under constraints because its government is not interested in serious progress. She said that their proposals on co-existence do not address any genuine issues, and merely reorganize the occupation. The Palestinian delegation interprets this as a ploy to buy time in order to "maintain a charade of involvement without really contributing constructively."



The bilaterals: Changing the rules of the game

Egypt's role in the peace process, Dr Ashrawi confirmed that Egypt's position, as stated in the Camp David Accords, supports full autonomy for the Palestinians pertaining to questions of land, resources, and self-government with full authority. She also said that Egypt is a major Arab country that can play a positive cohesive role, since it is the only Arab country that has (diplomatic) relations with Israel, Palestinians, other Arab countries and the United States.

"Egypt can play a definite role in Arab coordination, by taking initiatives, and by overcoming rifts created in the aftermath of the Gulf Crisis," she said, pointing out that Egypt has promised to create better feelings among the Arabs, especially in the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia. Egypt has also promised to hold official Arab meetings to plan out strategies for both the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Describing the attitude of the Israeli delegation towards its Palestinian counterpart, Dr Ashrawi described it as being very difficult to make people conscious that "you are talking to them on the basis of parity, when racism is so ingrained." She elaborated: "They (the Israelis) have been used for the last 25 years to treating the Palestinians as people under occupation, through the politics of domination, coercion, brutality and pressures. So, it will take them some time to learn that this action, or any patronizing attitudes, are unacceptable to any Palestinian politician."

Dr Ashrawi feels the Israeli delegation is under constraints because its government is not interested in serious progress. She said that their proposals on co-existence do not address any genuine issues, and merely reorganize the occupation. The Palestinian delegation interprets this as a ploy to buy time in order to "maintain a charade of involvement without really contributing constructively."

The Palestinians, meanwhile, have presented papers in line with the principles and objectives of the first phase of negotiations. Dr Ashrawi said, "We are going to pursue them (the Israelis) with peace, and will challenge their rejectionist policies which negate and violate international law and the principles of a negotiated settlement."

The 5th round of bilaterals, will be held in Washington on Monday, but parties have agreed to move the next round to Rome. The Palestinian delegation still refuses to move the talks to the Middle East, since it refuses to negotiate under occupation, or under the pressures of the occupying power. This is so as to avoid any negative intervention that would have a detrimental effect on Palestinian participation in the talks.

As for the multilaterals, which are due to be held in May, Palestinians in the diaspora and those living in Arab East Jerusalem will be participating in the economic and refugee working groups. Israel has previously rejected such participation and has even refused to attend such groups. Dr Erekat said that this shows Israel "is not really interested in peace."

He accused Yitzhak Shamir, who is concerned with the coming Israeli elections, of giving the impression of wanting peace on one hand, while on the other hand being afraid of getting engaged in substance. This, he said, would prompt "a revolution in the Likud." Dr Erekat believes that the peace process is part of an international development — a development which is responsible for the cancellation of the Soviet Union from the world map, and is accountable for a change in power structures around the world, finally giving way to this peace process.

"What is at stake now," he said, "is not only the Palestinian future, but that of the whole Middle East. We have to ask ourselves: how do we enter the next century? Do we enter it in the vehicles of prosperity and cooperation, mutual respect and peace? Or do we enter it in violence, instability, wars and the like?"

For seventy years, Palestinians and Israelis have been engaged in a zero-sum game whereby one country's loss is another's gain. But, according to Dr Erekat, when the Palestinian National Council (PNC) decided to recognize the two state solution, the Palestinians changed the rules of the game. "To continue playing," he said, "can only result in more blood shed. What this process needs is patience, statesmanship, and a real chance."

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

■ The government is expected to raise the issue of Jordanian detainees in Kuwaiti jails in international forums. The Star was told. So far Jordanian contacts with Kuwaiti authorities have failed to resolve the problem. Hundreds of Jordanians are in Kuwaiti jails, most of them have not been charged.

■ The World Bank has approved a JD 2 million loan to the Greater Amman Municipality. The loan will be used to finance a number of projects in the capital. Meanwhile, the municipality has set aside JD 1 million to finance studies to build new traffic crossings around the area of the Fifth Circle.

■ Studies are underway to determine the feasibility of raising the price of electricity in the Kingdom.

■ A local company has won a tender to transport 100,000 tons of Iraqi crude to Jordan for local consumption.

■ The Finance Ministry will issue new regulations to speed up the process of repatriating vehicles belonging to Jordanian returnees from the Gulf. The regulations will make it clear that customs duty will not be waived under any circumstances.

■ Minister of Information, Mr Mahmoud El-Sherif, has received an invitation from the Egyptian government to attend the Arab Information Ministers conference which will be held in Cairo in August. The meeting was supposed to take place last February.

■ The government will reconstitute the Economic Consultative Council which is headed by the Prime Minister. The council will have a permanent secretariat and will be consulted on all economic decisions.

Jordan and Tunis agree to increase trade exchange

By Rand El-Habash
Special to The Star

A FOURTEEN man Tunisian trade mission headed by Mr Mohammad Al-Amousse, president of South Tunisian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, concluded a seven-day visit to Jordan this week.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with Jordanian businessmen and government officials on enhancing trade relations between Tunisia and Jordan. The visit, which was organized by Amman Chamber of Commerce, aims at promoting both Jordanian and Tunisian products and to overcome trade barriers as well as exploring the possibilities of trade co-operation.

Mr. Mohammad Asfour, president of Amman Chamber of Commerce, said that both chambers are in the process of cementing the strong trade relationship between the Tunisian and Jordanian private sectors by signing a co-operation agreement. He said Tunisian consumers have already been introduced to Jordanian products which gives Jordanian entrepreneurs the opportunity to enter new markets apart from the traditional ones.

During their visit, members of the Tunisian delegation met with ministers of Trade and Industry, Transportation, vice president of Amman Chamber of Industry and president of Jordan Commercial

Centers Corp. Arrangements were made for the Tunisian delegation to visit Sahab Industrial City and the Arab Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Co. (APM) plant.

Mr. Amousse expressed his optimism about Jordanian-Tunisian trade ties and said there is a great opportunity for co-operation between the two countries especially with the large demand for the Jordanian products by Tunisian consumers. He also said Tunisian traders are interested in bringing their products to the Jordanian market.

"Fostering trade exchange between Jordan and Tunisia is steered by a 1981 agreement and its supplement of 1983, in which, all exchanged products are 100 per cent free of customs tariffs," Mr Mohammed Belmufli, Tunisian commercial attaché, told The Star. "But in 1990, the percentage was dropped to 70 per cent with regard to fair competition in both markets."

Jordan is looking to increase its exports of ready-made clothing, pharmaceuticals, plastics, medical equipments, foot-wear, carpets, ovens, soft drinks, biscuits and foodstuffs, furniture and glassware to Tunisia. The Tunisians, on the other hand, hope to sell their olive oil, dates, fish, shampoos and soaps, industrial plastic products, toys, textiles, ceramic, home appliances and perfumes in Jordan. ■

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Jordan-Korean joint venture

First television assembly plant begins production

By Star Staff Writers

JORDAN'S INDUSTRIAL effort has received another boost with the opening of its first television assembly plant. The new Middle East Electrical Industries Co. (MEEIC) factory at the Sahab Industrial estate, which combines Jordanian capital and the technical expertise of Korea's GoldStar Company, has an initial production target of 15,000 sets in 1992, with expansion to 50,000 sets annually. The sets will sell at around 30-40 per cent below the price of Korean made, and 50 per cent below Japanese made, products.

The Sahab plant was officially opened on Monday by Prince HRH Ra'ed deputizing for HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

GoldStar, a world leading electronics giant, and Darwish Al-Khalili Co., a well known Jordanian company, have concluded a long-term mutual relationship to promote Jordanian-made industries with global-oriented marketing strategies.

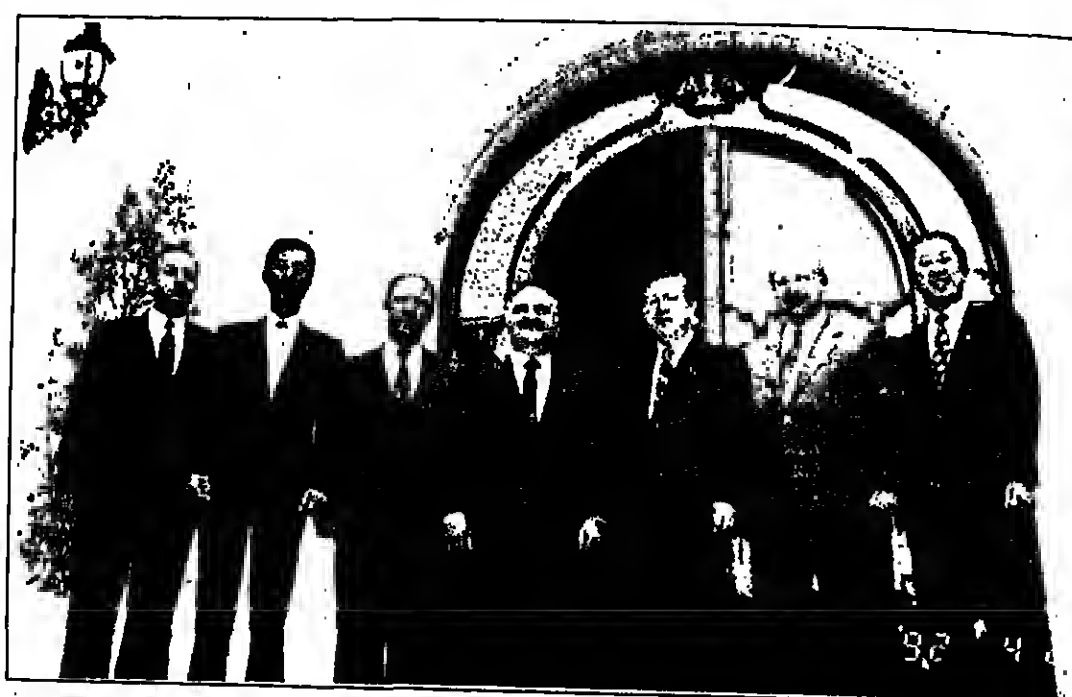
The new factory is not MEEIC's first industrial venture. In 1989 it moved from trading in household appliances to manufacture, with the production of refrigerators under license from ACMA of Singapore and in 1990 it added production of Fuji-

ica Kerosene heaters, moving quickly to take 60 per cent of the local market. The company now has plans for exports to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Syria and Lebanon and is aiming for sales of JD 1.5 million in 1992. Egypt offers another good potential market following sharp rises in electricity charges which have made cheaper kerosene heating more attractive for Egyptians.

In 1991 MEEIC signed an agreement with GoldStar for television assembly and is also ready to begin washing machine production and an expanded refrigerator range.

For its Korean partners, GoldStar, the Jordanian venture is part of a general worldwide expansion program. The company is part of a major Korean conglomerate, Lucky GoldStar, which was established in 1947 and now includes 37 companies involved in manufacturing, trade, finance, construction, services and sport, which enjoyed sales of \$25 billion in 1991.

GoldStar itself was established in 1958 and specializes in the production of electronics and household appliances. Gold Star Executive Vice President Yong-Ak Ro, who was in Jordan for the opening of the new television plant, said the company has been progressively localizing re-



Prince Hassan is surrounded by Jordanian and Korean representatives of the joint venture

search, manufacturing and sales and now has 20 overseas subsidiaries and 40 overseas offices.

The company's aim, said Mr. Ro, is for overseas manufacturers to handle 20 per cent of company production by the year 2000. Once production is underway in Jordan, the company hopes to expand sales not only to other Middle Eastern countries but also to southern and eastern

Europe.

He said GoldStar was attracted to Jordan as a location because of the availability of skilled labor and because of the warm welcome it received from the Jordanian government.

Mr. Ro said he would like to see the new plant move from largely assembly functions to more local manufacture of parts, and from its present focus on television assembly to refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves and other domestic appliances. "The Middle East market will be a peak market in the future" he said, "and GoldStar is keen to focus on it with good local partners."

Production at the JD 3 million Jordanian plant started three weeks ago. Production should reach 15,000 color television sets by the end of 1992 at 80 sets daily. With an eye for future expansion, the factory can increase

its production to capacity to between 50 to 100 thousands sets annually according to Mr. S.H. Hamm, GoldStar's Amman representative.

Mr. Nabil Abdallah of MEEIC said all the factory's employees, including the engineers and technicians are Jordanian, most of whom have received four-month training courses in GoldStar's Korean plants. "Highly qualified Jordanian labor will be an asset to expand the activities of the plant," he said. This blends well with Mr. Khalil's aim of "localizing Jordanian industry and the transfer of know-how to Jordan."

The Jordanian-Korean joint venture will open the way to other similar ventures. Already Jordanian investors are talking to industrial giants from Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

One Malaysian businessman has expressed readiness to set up a factory in Jordan to produce equipment to be fitted to cars and trucks engines so that they run on natural gas instead of gasoline.

Money Matters

Average exchange rates in JIs

Tuesday 21/4/1992

	Buy	Sell
US\$	691.0	693.0
£	1204.2	1210.2
DM	413.0	415.1
SFR	446.7	448.9
FRF	122.3	122.9
YEN	514.2	516.8
(100)		
DFL	367.4	369.2
SKR	114.3	114.9
LIT	55.0	55.3
(100)		
BLF	201.4	202.4
(10)		

Gold & Silver

	JD
Gold	
1kg	7,650.00
21 ct	6,650
18 ct	5,750
Eng. pound	
8g	8,250
Rashadi	
7g	8,400
24ct (swiss)	55.00
Silver (1kg)	150.00

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Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	4.1/16	9.11/16	10.9/16	4.3/4	8.9/16
2 mo.	4.1/16	9.11/16	10.1/2	4.3/4	8.9/16
3 mo.	4.3/16	9.11/16	10.7/17	4.11/16	8.7/16
6 mo.	4.9/16	9.3/8	10.3/8	4.11/16	8.1/4
1 year	4.3/4	9.9/16	10.1/4	4.11/16	8.3/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 5.50%. Call accounts 5.50%, 1 week 6%, 1 month 7%, 2 months 7.25%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%.

Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST 1.6648/55	1.5378/82	1.7480/87	134.28/35	1.1791/96	5.6349/55	

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Jordan awaits opening of new Arab heart center

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

THE JORDANIAN population boasts a high rate of heart disease, which includes congenital problems, valve disease and hardening of the arteries. Consequently, the country has enormous need for local centers for dealing with heart-related problems.

The Arab Heart Center (AHC), for the treatment of heart conditions and special surgery, is expected to be completed in 1993 and will be the first hospital of its kind in Jordan.

"It is going to be for cardiac and cardiovascular surgery, and general surgery, from orthopedic to plastic surgery," said Director of Administration, Dr. Adel Alali. The AHC will also host a maternity and gynecology department.

But how will this hospital differ from others of its kind? Board member, Dr. Dawud Hananish, explained that the hospital will be highly specialized and equipped. It will have 150 beds, which for a private hospital, is considered to be a large number. In addition, there will be four operating rooms and an intensive care unit with eight beds, and a coronary care unit — a unit for heart attack patients, also with eight beds. "We hope to put together a center that will have high standards and high technology for diagnosis and treatment, and which will cover a gap in the private sector," said Dr. Hananish.

Jordan's medical specialists



will soon be given the opportunity of working in the hospital. Dr. Hananish said that the hospital will be totally staffed by local doctors, since Jordan has a large enough number of experts. However, an exchange program of sorts with other hospitals in the United States will be established, in which surgeons from abroad will be sent to Jordan for visits on a temporary basis. Likewise, students from local universities in Jordan will be sent abroad for training in medicine, nursing, and in the technical aspects of hospital administration.

According to Dr. Alali, this will be the first private hospital to sponsor students from local colleges and universities, to be trained either at the hospital or abroad. This program, he said, has already commenced, as some students have been sent for special training.

Actual working staff, such as nurses, will range in number from 400 to 500. Dr. Alali point-

ed out that this is the standard figure required internationally, for running a hospital of this kind. Nurses will be expected to work in three shifts, rather than 24 hour shifts.

The hospital will be open to all members of the public, and will have a charity fund available for those who cannot afford to pay towards surgery costs. Different departments at the hospital will contribute towards this fund.

Costs of construction and equipment for the center are estimated to run to JD 12 million. The hospital will take shape in four phases: Construction, which has already been started by a local company, constitutes the first phase. The second concerns the electro-mechanical works, the third the medical equipment and the fourth phase concerns the furniture.

A bed in an average general hospital costs JD 70,000 per bed. A bed at the Arab Heart Center is estimated at costing JD 100,000 per bed. Dr. Hananish emphasized that this will not be a luxurious hospital, and will aim at using local materials where available. Remarking on the significance of the center's name, he said that even though it will carry the flag of the heart, the hospital will not be restricted to heart disease, thus the inclusion of "special surgery" to the hospital's logo. "Arab" is emphasized in the title in the hope that the center will become not only a regional center serving the private sector in Jordan, but also other Arab nationals from neighboring countries.

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

Abusing the rights of the woman and child

THE RAPE of women and the physical and sexual abuse of children is a neglected topic which has largely been avoided by Jordan's media and social and legislative institutions. However, it has recently begun to receive the attention it deserves, and has started to make an impact on our system of social values. This, in turn, may now be directed towards protecting the rights of women and children in a more constructive way.

Until now, there are few statistics available which indicate accurately the escalation of the problem. Furthermore, it is difficult to follow any change in these figures, as most cases are settled secretly, according to unwritten social and tribal laws. This is due to the fact that Jordanian society is ruled simultaneously by social and juridical laws, and that disclosing such cases to the public causes great scandal for the family involved (indeed, often ending in bloodshed).

Nonetheless, despite difficulties in collecting data, police and court reports, along with the anonymous statements of victimized women and children, indicate a serious problem which demands great initiative from private and governmental social institutions.

Arwa Amiry, associate professor of psychology at the University of Jordan and president of the Women's Research Center, conducted a survey in 1987 on 56 female students. Her findings indicated that "66 percent stated that they had been abused at home, including different degrees of physical, psychological and sexual oppression; 50 percent said that their fathers had physically abused their mothers, and 20 per-

cent admitted to having been physically abused themselves, including sexual abuse."

Rima Irani, a lawyer under training and a researcher in this field, also estimated that "nine out of ten women are abused physically, varying in degree from touching in rape, also taking into consideration incest and, for working women, compulsory intimacy with their male superiors."

The necessity now is for society to accept legislative changes towards raising the status of the woman and child. "The woman and child are not a political pressure in Jordan," said Toujan Faisal, a free lance columnist. "That's why so little attention is given to them."

The first, and until now the last, initiative to promote the rights of women and children occurred in 1984, at the first national seminar on child abuse. During the seminar, participants invoked the establishment of a Higher Council for Child Welfare, reporting the legitimate right to interfere directly in all of his problems. They also demanded an amendment of criminal law, calling for a doubling of the punishment if the victim of a crime is a child. Participants also suggested that new laws be enforced in educational and health organizations, obliging them to report cases of child abuse, or otherwise be subject to fines.

"The main problem lies in our legislative system, as well as in the coordination between social development institutions, the po-



Women protest against sexual abuse

lice and the court," said Toujan Faisal, explaining that the police cannot arrest a person who abuses a child without a court order, and that the court needs a police report in order to issue the order.

While beating has similar complications: "The police have no right to arrest a husband for beating his wife, unless they happen to be on the spot to witness his violence," said Esma Khader, a lawyer and member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights. "The next step then is to evaluate how strong the harassment was, with no clear definitions."

Unfortunately, Jordan has no institutions that can provide protection for the mother and child together, and social laws always direct them toward staying with the abusive head of the family. The rights of children against

punishment remain vague. In article 62 of the Jordanian Punishment Law of 1960, it is not a crime to physically punish children, if the punishment is in accordance with established social beliefs and has an educational purpose.

Meanwhile, the fifth section of the 1990 Jordanian Charter says, with regards to women and children: "Children have full right to receive the best care and protection from parents and government, to be regarded as independent personalities without discrimination between boys and girls."

In accordance with article 16 of the International Accord for Child's Rights, it is forbidden to abuse children within the home or outside, as much as it is illegal to violate their reputation and

honor. However, Arwa Amiry believes that contradictory juridical points, combined with social beliefs about the man exercising his power over his wife and children, both establish and acknowledge abusive attitudes, and support an already established hierarchy of abusive relationships within the family.

The rape of women and the abuse of children within families remain extremely well kept secrets. According to a former inmate of Mahara prison, more than 100 rapists were kept in custody for different duration periods. The sentence for attempted rape ranged between one and a half and three years, while the sentence for actual rape ranged between three and seven years. Out of court settlements for rape usually demand that the rapist marry his victim.

Jordanian law acknowledges the International Accord for Child's Rights, notably article 19, which states that "all countries should take social and pedagogical measures to prevent physical, mental, sexual abuse and abandonment." However, there is still much more to be done.

Improving the status of the woman and child will, in Rima Irani's view, necessitate a change in social strata and a new approach towards social beliefs. "Once we stop seeing women and children as submissive elements in society, giving them the same legal rights as men, we can then expect radical changes in our social values, and better treatment for women and children."

Idealism and reality in the Middle East

By Deborah Pugh

CAIRO — A LANDMARK conference of leading Muslim and Coptic Christian theologians rejected safer sex education and condoms and affirmed that early marriage and marital faithfulness are more appropriate weapons against HIV infection.

The meeting on "The role of Religion and Moral Behavior in the Prevention and Control of AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases" included Sheikh Ghazali, one of the Arab world's most popular preachers, the Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Tantawi, the Mufti of Tunisia and Saudi religious representatives. Held last September at World Health Organization (WHO) regional headquarters in Alexandria, Egypt, it received no media coverage, and the summary report and recommendations have not been generally released.

While the clerics recognized that "sexuality is a biological element in the human structure," they concluded that "advocacy must be directed toward virtue, fidelity and straightness, for only these noble traits can ensure full integrity of the human being and his protection against infection."

Early marriage was recommended, although they noted that societies must solve the social and economic barriers, including acute housing shortages, leading to the present delays in the age of marriage.

The conference also rejected condom distribution and ruled that condoms were acceptable only "in circumstances to which it is necessary to protect the spouse of an infected person." Condoms are freely available in Egypt for family planning.

In Egypt, many observers worry that the promotion of an idealistic, Islamic/Christian solution to the virtual exclusion of available information of AIDS and HIV prevention ignores the reality that not everyone is likely to conform to religious teachings — even if Egypt's housing crisis was solved overnight.

Columnist Salama A. Salama, writing in Al-Ahram Weekly, chastised local media coverage of the December 1991 World AIDS Day for doing little more than promoting chastity. "The majority of speakers congratulated themselves and the Egyptian people... that to be religious and virtuous is... protection against AIDS, and that Egypt, for that very reason, is not threatened by an epidemic sweeping across the world... It signifies immense naivety and irresponsibility to simplify the problem and underestimate the risks," he wrote.

Although Egypt is committed to AIDS education, government action has been sluggish and the few non-governmental organizations have not given priority to HIV prevention strategies. The HIV prevention strategies, he said, are "not the average Egyptian does not have the highest risk about

(HIV) transmission, symptoms and preventative measures."

This lack of information translates into unreasonable fears which permeate the press on the rare occasions when the subject is raised. Recently, in an article titled "Islam is the Cure," a journalist for the Al-Shaab newspaper, which represents the moderate fundamentalist trend in Egypt, wrote about his horror at discovering that a doctor did not keep his patients with HIV under lock and key. "I said to him, 'How can they live and continue their lives while spreading the disease to others?'"

According to recent government figures, 282 people, including those who developed AIDS and have died, have tested positive. Nearly half were foreigners and were promptly repatriated. Foreigners remaining in the country longer than two months are required to undergo an HIV antibody test, but in practice this regulation is applied only to Africans.

While the traditional, conservative nature of Egyptian society has restricted the impact of HIV,



Cairo: housing shortages delay marriage

society is changing. Some two million tourists visited the country last year, and, while polygamy is rare, divorce and remarriage is becoming common among Muslims, although forbidden to Coptic Christians. Injecting drug use is also rising.

Unfortunately, these risk behaviors are seldom discussed or acknowledged, and observers fear that a vigorous AIDS campaign will be mounted only when HIV has a visible stranglehold on all facets of Egyptian society.

Yemen, in contrast, is developing a dynamic program to heighten awareness of HIV, despite an economy devastated by the Gulf crisis which forced the return of nearly 900,000 Yemenis from Saudi Arabia in a few weeks.

Thanks to its newly-independent press, seminars for health professionals and commu-

nity and religious leaders last December brought HIV to national attention in this tradition-bound state on the tip of the Arabian peninsula. Saudi Arabia, Yemen's nearest neighbor, continues to refuse to notify WHO on its incidence of HIV infection. The Yemen National Program for AIDS Prevention has issued excellent leaflets targeting doctors, health workers and travellers with HIV prevention information.

The campaign is remarkable because evidence suggests that HIV is still a minor problem. Out of 5,000 blood samples tested last year, technicians found no cases of infection. Dr. Ali Mohammed Assabri, coordinator of Yemen's AIDS program, believes that blood screening and raising public awareness are needed now.

"We are starting before we have a problem because prevention is the most important element," says Assabri. "Soon we will distribute our leaflets to travel agencies and to the airport," he added.

Government leaflets stop short of advising on "safe sex" with condoms, in recognition of Islamic opposition to sex outside marriage. However, they clearly state how HIV is and is not transmitted and stress avoiding casual sexual encounters when travelling.

"We must push preventative education," one doctor said, "because here in Yemen we haven't yet been able to vaccinate children against childhood disease. How would we cope with an epidemic of AIDS?"

World AIDS

Like father, like son: A new musical duo

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

LAST WEEK'S piano recital at the Royal Cultural Centre was an interesting experience for both audience and performers alike.

Father and son piano duo, Nuri Rubelbany Sr. and Nuri Rubelbany Jr., jointly presented a wide-scope program for two and four hands, ranging from Bach to Strauss. Rubelbany Sr.'s own composition, 'Suite for Piano' was also part of the repertoire.

A composition evoked by childhood memories of his native Damascus, 'Suite for Piano' is oriental in atmosphere — slow and idle, timeless in ambience. In melody and tempo it was unmistakably oriental.

A graduate of the Leipzig Music Academy, Rubelbany Sr. studied conducting, piano and composition, and experimented widely with various composition styles and musical trends. His teacher suggested that he incorporate Arabic themes and melodies into his compositions, and after several trials, Rubelbany became convinced that he had finally "discovered" himself in this particular form of composition. Four movements from his 'Suite for Piano' are samples of this style.

Rubelbany explained that due to the specific characteristics of a piano (it cannot sustain tone as well as string or wind instruments), it is more difficult to compose and play this style of music on piano. Arabic music is predominantly composed in quarter tones, and to sustain a

quick tempo with quarter beats is by no means an easy task. However, it is these intervals that make Arabic music so distinctive, and they must be preserved in order to create an oriental atmosphere.

Evaluating their performance in terms of listening appeal, their recital was agreeable and could perhaps have been described as "impressionistic" — very intimate and subjective. Rubelbany Sr.'s piano playing was not without flaws, perhaps due to a minor infection of his finger, but it did not overshadow the overall impression of the recital.

Rubelbany Sr. is a long-established conductor, having led the Dresden Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Symphony Opera House Orchestra. He has also conducted 3 percussion ensembles in Luchow, where he lives and works. His most invigorating moments, he claims, are while conducting. "Conducting is very demanding and exhausting, both physically and emotionally — but it is still most enjoyable," he said.

It would seem that Rubelbany's real vocation is for teaching. "I find it very satisfying to teach young people," he said. "Children are very perceptive and indiscriminate. They are open-minded and ready to listen to and accept positively any good music."

Since 1979, Rubelbany has been teaching at the Conservatory in Luchow. He is a member of the Orff Society in Salzburg and a member of IGMP — the International Society for Academic Training in Music Education in

Germany. Rubelbany believes that even a difficult piece of music, like Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, can be introduced to children, where the sounds of wind, rain and birds can be musically detected. He also approves of teaching music appreciation within the setting of a story, to both create an atmosphere and stimulate the children's imagination.

Unlike many musical scholars, Rubelbany Sr. does not see the idea of "popularizing" classical music as "vulgarizing" it. He supports the idea behind pop Bach and pop Mozart. "Why not?" he said.

"The complexity of Mozart and Bach are off-putting. If you wisely mix various trends of pop music, which can be easily related to by youngsters, with serious classical music, academic rigidity will be diluted and thus easily 'absorbed' by young students."

Classical music aside, he supports "good" music such as Latin-American and Afro-Caribbean, indeed any music that stretches musical horizons and provokes an emotional response. "For that is what music is all about," he said.

For the past three years, Rubelbany Sr. has held a percussion instruments workshop at the National Music Conservatory, co-operating with the Goethe Institute in Amman. He has introduced the Orff method in playing and making musical arrangements for percussion instruments. During his short visit to Jordan he introduced and conducted two operas: 'The Barber of Seville' by Rossini and 'Han-

sel and Gretel' by Humperdinck at the Goethe Institute.

A lover of art in general, and an inquisitive person by nature, Rubelbany decided to explore the 'colors' found in music, by trying to translate the language of music into the 'language' of colors, expressing a mood. As a result, Rubelbany has produced many paintings, where the movement of colours is expressed by the rhythm of music.

The idea, he recalled, came to him from the statement of a Chinese philosopher, who suggested that one could hear with the eyes and see things while listening. It confirmed his intuition, and encouraged him to paint. His 'Double Fugue' by Bach in colors is an example of his experiments. The emotional outburst of the composition is captured in an overflow of colors, transcribing a musical flight of fantasy.

He relives his passion for and dedication to music through his son, who is only 19, but has already attracted attention in Germany. Prize-winner of Germany's young musicians' piano competition, he was well received in Amman. After studying for four years under the guidance of his father, Rubelbany Jr.

attended music school at Luchow, and is now preparing to enter Hannover University for Higher Education in Music.

He has powerful hands with wide palms, and his musicality is obvious. Technically speaking, there is little he cannot do, as he has an excellent academic figure ahead of him. The father-and-son 'togetherness' in their duets was truly wonderful to witness.

Still under the wing of his father, who could not hide his paternal feelings on stage, Rubelbany Jr.'s virtuosity is beyond doubt. His capability of carrying his audience through the complexities of the music reveals a definite sign of maturity.



Artistic father and son

Ceylon Theaters celebrates a return to Sinhalese film production

By Bede Perera
In Colombo
Special to The Star

THE SRI Lankan film company Ceylon Theaters has been at the forefront of the film exhibition business for the last 63 years. These films mainly comprise English speaking films from Hollywood and Tamil and Hindi films from India. However, in the late forties, Ceylon Theaters got into the mainstream of Sri Lankan cultural activity with the advent of independence, and started producing films in Sinhalese.

Thus Ceylon Theaters got right into the position where it became one of the 'godfathers' of the Sinhalese film. After thriving up until the 'seventies, it stopped its production process, maybe because of a plethora of Sinhalese film producers had also entered the business of film production.

However now, after over twenty years off the production scene, Ceylon Theaters have made a grand re-entry into Sinhalese film production, with one of the most touching films ever made in Sri Lanka, 'Stree' (Woman). It stars Malani Fonseka, the queen of Sinhalese cinema in all of her crowning glory, in the leading role as a poor village woman who pulls her vegetable cart to the village fair. What is more, Malani is also the

director of the film. Thanks to the patronage of Ceylon Theaters, Malani has brought about a gem of a Sinhalese film. CT (Ceylon Theaters) has returned to Sinhalese films at a time when producers are in dire need of investing in films of quality. There is also another ripple effect of CT's participation, in that other producers will now be encouraged to come forward to invest in high quality Sinhalese cinema productions, and not just to look towards making minis of money from commercial cinema, which to most intents and purposes, consists of carbon copies of Hindi and Tamil films. CT deserves Sri Lanka's gratitude for the revival of the highly cultured Sinhalese film in the country.

No record of the achievements of CT would ever be complete without reference to their 'adventures' in Sinhalese film production. CT have said, "We were not unaware of its hazards, but we faced them courageously, as the inevitable responsibility of a company dedicated to film entertainment is to give greatest variety to the masses."

CT, in the absence of studio or technical facilities in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in 1945-55, set up a "unit" in Madras soon after the war and framed out a number of Sinhalese film productions to semi-pro-dramatists, who had made a name for themselves in



Cinema darlings Vasanthi Chathurani and Douglas Ranasinghe

the Sinhalese Theater. Foremost among them were the Jayamane brothers, the much loved stars Rukman Devi and Eddie Jayamane. Of the many films the Jayamane Brothers made for CT, 'Kela Handa' (The Jungle Moon), based on the celebrated novel by W.A. Silva deserves a special mention. It proved to be an enormous box-office success and paved the way for the production of Sinhalese films in their entirety in Sri Lanka.

Thus it was the CT company who made the fateful decision in

1955 of setting up a film studio in Colombo, to provide the most comprehensive services for the aspiring film maker. This venture cost them one million rupees — a tidy sum at that time. They secured the finest cine and laboratory equipment that the UK and Europe could provide. Experienced Indian technicians were brought to man every department and Sri Lanka understood where they were appointed to work with them. Thus CT set in motion the wheels of a Sinhalese film industry, which in terms of

Sri Lanka's population and size was larger than India could boast of.

One time Chairman of Ceylon Theaters Mr S. Sellaratnam was at the company's Golden Jubilee. "We are proud to say that the Studio has an impressive record in Sinhalese and Tamil films produced in their entirety and went into production. It has accommodated and completed at least twenty percent of the last films released in Sinhalese. Again, Ceylon Theaters can say: "We are proud!"

Focus on Jordanian Literature (11)

Jamal Naji: A champion of social realism

By Fahd A. Salameh

THIS WEEK'S literary figure will be Jordanian author Jamal Naji, whose novel *Leavings of the Last Storms* won the 1989-90 State Prize for Literature.

Jamal Naji was born in 1954 in Aqaba, near Jericho. He spent his early childhood in his town of birth, but when the 1967 war broke out and the West Bank fell under Israeli occupation, the young Jamal left for the East Bank, where he settled with his family. In Amman. Here he completed his preparatory and secondary classes at Raghadan Secondary School. During that period, he contributed to Jordanian daily newspapers, and was greatly involved in school activities.

In 1973 he studied artistic training at the teacher training college in Naour, and after graduating he taught in Saudi Arabia. He returned home, and took a post at one of the banks where he still works today.

Jamal began his literary career as a poet, and published his poetry during the 'seventies in Jordanian and Arab newspapers and journals. However, he soon shifted to the art of the novel, which was better suited to his talent and temperament. In 1982, he published his first novel, *The Road to Bel-Jureh*, which was awarded the prize of The Jordanian Writers' Association. In 1984 he published his second novel, *The Time*, which won The Best Book Prize. In 1988 he published a collection of short stories, and his third novel, *Leavings of the Last Storms*. He is currently working on his fourth novel, which he hopes to complete soon.

Jamal Naji is a member of The Jordanian Writers' Association, and a devoted champion of the literary movement in this country.

Leavings of the Last Storms, published by the Arab Publishing Foundation for Studies in Beirut in 1988, can be classified among the social realistic literary works of the late twentieth century. In one of its aspects, it presents a portrait of urban encroachment on rural land, and the social, demographic, and economic changes that affect the nature of such an area through the introduction of metropolitan developments.

The novel begins with the memory of a rural site, the genesis of what later comes to be known as the Gipsies' Valley. Here are the first lines of the novel:

Were the city to return to its past vacancy, the valley would return to its past status, before Siblo, the Gipsy, had settled down. In it, a wild place, a point for the meetings of thieves who took shelter in its dens and who made them their secret holes, the city shall bellow in its empty mountains and valleys. It shall extend its spider-like arms, and move to declare its harsh, dumb war against its empty space. Here, faces overcrowd, and out



Jamal Naji

of them peeps Siblo's face, the Gipsy man, his wife Bnhaj, then their daughter, Hajar. Othman Abu Barakah appears with his wife and his children, especially Hanud, the youngest — they all appear, not because they want to communicate through this novel what they have on their minds, nor because they were the first to settle down in the space of this valley, but because they were the forerunners of the crowds which made the valley their habitat.

With these lines, the world of the novel is introduced, and the network of intricate relations is established. In one sense the novel is an exploration of the genesis of social structures, an exegesis of social traditions, and a study of the development of social organisms within the contexts of time and place.

In another aspect, the novel is a scrutiny of the development of the bourgeoisie in a given society, where entrepreneurs are quick to see and exploit the potential needs of society, and promptly make the best of them. The Barakahs and Nizar Abu Khanjar manage to foresee the needs of the new society and provide the necessary and luxury commodities, achieving high gains.

The society of the valley is mainly composed of two categories: Gypsies and peasants, and we are made to see in a realistic style, the superstitious nature and beliefs of such a society.

The Gypsies are simple folk, as are the peasants, but unlike the latter group, they pick quarrels among themselves for no other reason than quarrelling itself; and during those brawls, scandals are poured out and secrets are made known. However, when the quarrels are over, everything returns to normal.

The following passage reveals the contrast in behavior between these two dissimilar components of this newly-formed society. It presents through its minute details an insight into the psychology of both peasants and Gypsies, and the philosophy underlying their attitudes in life.

Gypsies may have a particular philosophy in spreading out their scandals, and picking out quarrels. Known scandals can form a thick veil behind which undisclosed secrets, which the peasants are certain exist, can be concealed. What makes the

grove conceals a mystery?"

The truth which remains unperceived by the peasants, even after long years of dealing with the Gypsies, is that the act of familiarising scandals deprives them of their speciality, their secrecy, and of the futile attempts of guarding against their exposure; and they become part of the normal affairs. Similarly, recurrent daily quarrels become daily traditions, providing the Gypsies with freedom of action, speech, and movement. It is through such means, that the Gypsies extracted the limits of their freedom from the peasant jungle.

The secret of their relaxed foreheads, which distinguish them from the creased foreheads of peasants is, perhaps, the result of their relief from the tragic attempts at concealing secrets and scandals, which, through their recurrence, have provided humor for the gatherings of peasants. They no longer criticize the strange behavior of Gypsies, as it appears to form part of their customs; rather, they approve of it and find no harm in it. They feel surprised at their own behavior when some even try to hide a cough.

The world of the peasants is an obscure one, so is their history in the valley; what the Gypsies know of that world is only what comes by chance to the eye or ear. The Gypsies know nothing about Nizar Abu Khanjar's past, Abu Salman and his son Salman, or his other son, Jabr... When quarrelling, farmers disclose no secrets, nor join the quarrel as Gypsies do, with no apparent reason. And at the end of every quarrel, Gypsies usually say, "Keep it unvelled," despite the scandals they uncover and invent; a statement they dare, perhaps as the last shot before cooling down.

The two elements composing the society in the valley seem mysterious to each other. The Gypsies are inscrutable to the peasants, and the peasants are a closed book to the Gypsies, a society of riddles and mysteries, both to itself and the observer.

In his attempt to reveal the nature of such a social fabric, Jamal Naji succeeds in presenting a landscape of primitive life, simplicity, and innocence, destroyed through the steady encroachment of urbanization.

Exploitation takes other forms, including human exploitation for sexual ends. In this field, Hajar, Siblo's daughter, is the focus for both Jabr Abu Barakah and Nizar Abu Khanjar.

Leavings of the Last Storms describes a network of relations between individuals, families, and the groupings of two races, brought together by circumstances beyond their choice or power. It also describes the role of time in welding them into a coherent, homogeneous society that has its own common characteristics, interests, fears, hopes and aspirations for the future. It is, in this sense, a unique work of art, a study in social development and social psychology.

The narrative technique is the traditional omniscient narrator, who sees things not only externally, but can also probe into the depths of the characters and reveal their innermost hidden secrets. Although the narrative is chronologically arranged, some events are revealed to the reader much later than their actual occurrence, a device through which Jamal successfully captures the attention of the reader, encouraging him to carry on with the newly-introduced events. For instance, Bakaj's death is an event that takes place in the first few pages of the novel, but the details of that event only appear in the third part of the novel, no less than eighty pages away.

Leavings of the Last Storms is a rich novel with regards to the variety of themes and ideas it lacks and displays. It is, in one of its meanings, the story of the estranged artist, represented in the character of Siblo, in a merciless, developing society. Siblo, who is nicknamed El-Far, that is, 'the mouse', stands out as the unalterable memory of the past in a rapidly-moving, rapidly-changing society. The implications which his nickname entail are varied and vexing.

In another aspect of the novel, it presents a study of the influence of superstition and rumors on a society dominated by poverty and illiteracy, and the destructive role they play in formulating beliefs and moulding the mentality. In this area, the novel is a realistic depiction of such influences and their impact.

Social exploitation and social parasites are the third aspect which the novel successfully exposes and reveals. The land of the valley is sold twice to the same people, exploited in both deals by the same family, who neither possessed the land nor the right of selling it, that is the family of Abu Barakah. When the real owner appears, demanding either payment or departure, the same family, aided this time by a new parasite, Nizar Abu Khanjar, make the best of the circumstance and take commissions in return for convincing the residents to pay the requested sums.

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Fahd Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.



Our Say....

Who's winning the bilaterals?

AS THE Arab parties to the peace negotiations prepare themselves for the fifth round of bilaterals with Israel scheduled to take place on Monday in the US capital, Arabs are asking themselves who is winning in the peace talks so far. It is true that Palestinian negotiators, returning from Cairo after sitting for a crash course in Israeli negotiating at the hands of veteran Egyptian diplomats, have a lot to be proud of in terms of public relations victories over increasingly isolated Israeli negotiating teams, but the question still stands: Where is the beef?

Apart from minor media stunts and an increasingly improved Palestinian profile before the world, the realities of the situation have not changed a bit. In fact, Palestinians coming from the occupied territories speak of a mad drive by the Shamir government to colonize what little remains of Arab land in the West Bank and Gaza, while the iron fist of Israeli occupation hardens its grip over the daily lives of millions of Palestinians diminishing any real hope for an end to occupation.

In addition to mounting frustration with the peace process among Arabs, the conclusions that one may arrive at from observing the Israeli political arena converge into one frightening reality: Israel's political establishment is unable to shake off the heritage of more than a decade of Likud right-wing politics, which prophesizes turning the whole of Palestine into the Kingdom of David of biblical times in spite of historical, political, demographic and legal contradictions.

This is apparent from the way Prime Minister Shamir is waging his reelection campaign. The incumbent Shamir is furthering his anachronistic dream by sending his lame negotiators to Washington while unleashing all of Israel's near bankrupt treasury to bankroll settlement schemes in the occupied areas. Moreover, the man makes it clear that these territories will never be relinquished. There is no reason to believe that he is bluffing.

So this exercise in futility which we now call the peace process has delivered nothing so far to the people who depend on it most; the Palestinians. To remind US Secretary of State James Baker that they, the Palestinians, have not missed the last bus to peace, the PLO leadership and the territories' Palestinians have been meeting their deadlines like dextrous students on the first day at school.

But the euphoria is over. Neither Arabs, nor Israelis, are stirred any more by the sight of Arab and Israeli negotiators strolling in and out of the US State Department at the end of each session to face a throb of bemused reporters, only to repeat the same phrases again and again: "No progress, little progress, no substance, little substance..."

Meanwhile, the United States and Britain are quickly exhausting their diplomatic patience on countries like Iraq and Libya and have shown enough imagination to transform a once peaceful UN into a militant body which wastes no time in massing troops, slapping sanctions and issuing ultimatums.

So who is winning the bilateral rounds so far? Certainly not the Arabs. But it would be glib to believe that winning anything was over part of the deal.

Iraqi refugees face a bleak future

By Karen Dabrowska

TENS OF thousands of Iraqi refugees are languishing in camps in Iran and Saudi Arabia. Their hosts, although sympathetic to their plight, would like to see a long-term solution to the problem. There is little prospect of the refugees settling permanently in the host countries or in a third country or of returning home, where they face arrest, torture or death. A bleak future seems to follow a tragic past.

The exact numbers involved in the Iraqi diaspora vary. The Iraqi Civilian Aid (ICA) estimates there are between 600,000-800,000 Iraqi refugees in Iran while, according to an Iranian government spokesman, the total number of Iraqis who crossed the border into what was enemy territory during the first Gulf war, now stands at one million — 400,000 Shias and 600,000 Kurds.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), from the exodus of some 1.4 million into Iran, some 70,000 remain in camps.

Reports received by ICA and yet to be confirmed independently indicate that another 200,000 Iraqis may also be stranded in H3 oil pumping areas in the Jordanian desert. But Jordan's ambassador to London, Fouad Ayoub, said that he had contacted the competent authorities in Jordan who had told him that reports of Iraqi refugees being stranded at Point H3 were not true.

The 15 main refugee camps in Iran are in urgent need of medical help, blanket and bedding and essential food supplies on a continuous basis, plus schooling for the children. The teachers in the camps are volunteers and there is no provision for their salaries. The relief officials on the scene believe that the refugees also need work and that the establishment of small clothing and weaving factories would help them become independent. The refugees include many orphans and disabled persons who need constant attention.

The Iranian government, mortified by the lack of assistance from the international community, is spending an average of \$3 per person per day on the refugees.

The response from the international community has been very nominal — practically nothing, an Iranian government spokesman said. "Those with relatives can move inside Iran. That's the policy with Afghans, Kurds and Iraqis. Those with no body stay in the areas assigned to them."

The UNHCR says it has begun a "winterization" program where the first of some 3,300 winterized shelters housing up to 40,000 people have been completed.

But ICA coordinator Abdul Wahab Al Hakim says the organization was only active in August and September last year. He believes UNHCR was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem, escorted the refugees to the Iraqi border and left them to face their fate.

Al Hakim believes that foreign aid organizations in the south of Iran have been few and far between. International aid agencies have faced logistical problems and have been unable to change money at the unofficial rate.

But a UNHCR spokesperson said that at the shelters for the wintering program were put in place. There was in fact an oversupply and some were sent to northern Iran.

The spokesperson said that the Interna-

tional Office for Migration assisted those who wanted to return to Iraq where an amnesty had been declared but emphasized there was no forced return of refugees.

ICA is one of the most active small aid agencies run by volunteers from a modest room in a London office block. It has received £200,000 from the Overseas Development Agency and hopes to finish a housing project for 4,000 refugee camp residents in Isfahan within the next two months. It has also been active in providing the refugees with food and clothing and has collected 4,000 signatures from refugees who have been moved from Safwan — a border crossing between Iraq and Kuwait — to Iran, demanding these displaced persons be included in the compensation for the Gulf War which Iraq is required to pay.

Iran's Imam Khomeini Foundation, meanwhile, has spent \$1 million securing clothing, blankets and foodstuffs for every refugee who is able to leave the camps for a home in the city — usually with families in Qom, Mashad, Isfahan or Tehran.

In Saudi Arabia conditions are much worse. The UNHCR reports that Saudi Arabia now accommodates 35,000 Iraqis in two camps — Artawiyyah and Rafha.

The Saudi government has informed UNHCR that it has spent over \$22 million on food, medical and relief supplies for the refugees and POWs, but the State Department and independent human rights and refugee organizations have expressed fears for their safety.

These fears follow the State Department's human rights report for 1991 which said that as many as 283 Iraqis may have been sent back from Saudi Arabia in contravention of promises.

According to the State Department, the Saudi refugee camps hold about 22,000 Iraqi civilians mostly from a Shia area of southern Iraq that tried unsuccessfully to rebel against Saddam Hussein in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

In addition 13,000 to 14,000 Iraqi prisoners of war, re-classified as refugees, are also held in Saudi camps. Aziz Abu Hamad, senior researcher at Middle East Watch, a human rights organization based in New York, said the Iraqi refugees in Saudi Arabia are exposed to "religious indoctrination and abuse" by their hosts.

Abu Hamad also said that there have been confirmed incidents of violence in the refugee camps and that Iraqis have been killed. He said the Saudi government had disciplined guards for opening fire.

But Sayed Bagir Al Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, who visited the camps, said he left with a very favourable impression.

He pointed out that the kingdom did not wish to talk about the good work it was doing regarding the Iraqi refugees. He said that the services and welfare it was providing for the refugee brothers were almost unparalleled in the world today.

While the quote, "all dressed up and no where to go" may apply to wealthy Iraqis who escaped to Jordan with their savings, the plight of the thousands in Iran and Saudi Arabia is a tragic confirmation that the saying "as good as charity" is applicable to the international community.

Karen Dabrowska is a writer and researcher based in London.

Putting the Arab world on the map

A new atlas combines up-to-date information on the various states of the Arab world with descriptions of the culture, society and economy of a region that is rapidly growing in world importance yet remains little understood in the West.

By Margaret Crockett

CAIRO— The definition of 'atlas' is a collection of maps. But the *Atlas of the Arab World* is far more than that. Certainly it's a mine of information, maps and statistics, but it's also an accessible and detailed reference work.

Maxime Rodinson, the internationally renowned professor at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris, has written the preface which he begins quite dramatically: "Arabs, the Arab people, the Arab world arouse passions. Whether because of the initiatives they take, or because of the trials they go through, or simply because of their very presence in a central zone of the globe, they remain a centre of world attention. They have always evoked an extraordinary amount of love or hatred."

There is no denying the complexity and volatility of that part of the world — all the better to collate information which will promote understanding, although Rodinson admits that understanding Arabs in the varied manifestations of their culture is difficult. "They are a large human group spread over a vast territory," he says. "In many ways, they are very different from one another, as can be expected in such a large area where the history and environment vary so greatly."

Author Philippe Fargues, a sociologist and a statistician, is attached to the United Nations and the French foreign ministry as an Arab world expert. Co-author Rafic Boustani is an advisor to the United Nations on the territorial changes and in France is the director of the *Plan-Press* agency. They have gathered information on all 21 states of the Arab region, encompassing the Near and Middle East, North Africa, Mauritania and the Horn of Africa. Chapters on The Borders, Ethnic Groups and Religions, Population, Society, Culture, Cities, Agriculture, Oil and Industry, Regional Unity, The State, and Palestine, are each sub-divided to cover such topics as minorities, health, education, international trade and the foreign nationals who play an important part in many an Arab land.

Fargues and Boustani state that the aim of a geopolitical atlas of the Arab world is not simply to emphasize unifying potential, but also to detect fracture areas and areas of disunity. They cite the example of oil. "Oil creates the first dominant rift, not so much because it allowed countries that have it unprecedented economic experimentation, but more profoundly still because the comforts afforded by oil income have frozen some social structures."

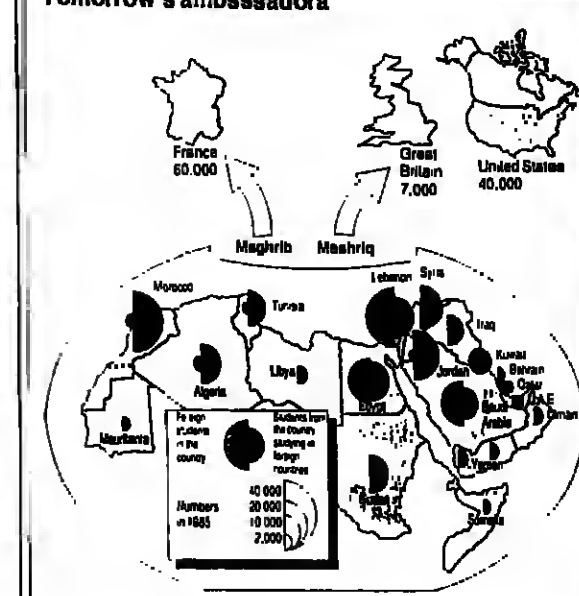
"Oil did not gush forth just anywhere, but most often in countries in which tribal law was most solidly anchored," they argue. Energy, that symbol of modern times, thus reinforced tradition.

Thus, it is not by chance that indicators apparently so far removed from one another as the volume of hydrocarbon exports and the limitations placed on women's rights, or even human rights, produce many maps that look so much alike.

From the 1920s on, oil was exploited on an industrial scale, yet the Arab world had to wait another 50 years before gaining real control over its main resource. Arab countries still have vast reserves of oil, and despite fluctuations in demand and falling prices, the authors predict a brilliant future for Arab oil states.

The authors maintain that as the Arab world unfolds over the two "sides" of the planet it is torn between contradictory inclinations. To its north, prosperous Europe is doing its utmost to erase demarcation lines while to the east and the south

Tomorrow's ambassadors



The education scene in the Arab world and for Arabs studying abroad.

of the Arab world, much larger populations, incited in some cases by the bankruptcy of totalitarian ideologies and in others by persisting misery, seem to unearth seemingly forgotten differences.

The *Atlas of the Arab World* commences with a history of the region, deemed a creation of the twentieth century, and the shaping of borders, some of which are controversial today. Power and Islam are discussed in the following section and the authors ask — who is Arab? Their response is that one theory gives this designation only to the descendants of the tribes of the Arabian peninsula and of the

area is concerned, the authors assert that even in their wildest dreams, the fathers of the *Nahda*, the Arab renaissance called for by a circle of intellectuals at the end of the 19th century, would not have been able to foresee the 3,000 titles — daily newspapers or periodicals — printed every year in Arabic, nor the 4,000,000 people who every year learn to read and write.

The fragility of the area is confirmed — 21 wars for 21 Arab members of the United Nations. In less than half a century of existence, we learn, none of them has been able to find a way to avoid unleashing its troops, some on its borders, some against rebels or in civil wars.

Finally, the vexed question of Palestine. Of all the great political causes, the defence of the rights of the Palestinian people is the only one to be taken up unanimously by the whole Arab world. From Algiers to Aden, from Rabat to Baghdad, not a single dissenting voice was heard at least not until the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its backlash against the Palestinians. It is reassuring to know that there can be unison.

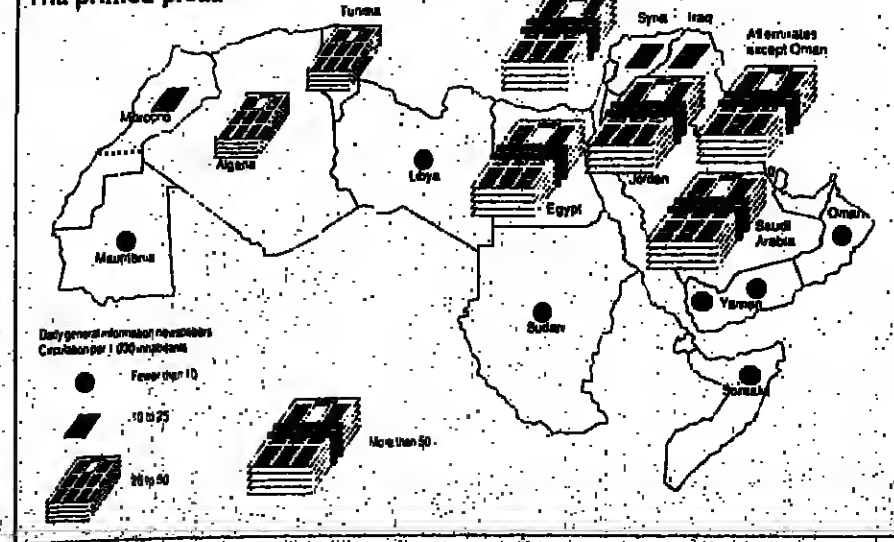
Concise laid out and well illustrated, the book enhances knowledge of the Arab world, but more importantly it will promote comprehension of this huge area and its diverse inhabitants.

Academic File

Margaret Crockett is the assistant editor of Academic File.

ATLAS OF THE ARAB WORLD Geopolitics and Society. By Rafic Boustani and Philippe Fargues. Facts on File. 144pp. Hardback. ISBN 0-8160-2346-8.

The printed press



The printed word in the Arab region.

Regional ROUND-UP

KABUL: Muslim groups were scrambling for the spoils of victory in Afghanistan after the fall of Najibullah's regime. Foreign governments pleaded for restraint to avoid a new bloody civil war. The United States, Iran and the United Nations have called for restraint in Mujahideen forces deployed around Kabul following the ousting of president Najibullah last week. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held talks with guerrilla leaders to try to persuade them to accept a UN peace plan which calls for the setting up of a transitional government, a ceasefire and elections. Unconfirmed reports said earlier rival guerrilla factions have clashed in the Western Afghan city of Herat. Meanwhile President Najibullah was reported out of the country with the help of UN mediators. Western observers believe an Islamic republic will be proclaimed in Afghanistan.

LIBYAN CRISIS: Syrian President Hafez Al Assad made a tour of the Arabian Gulf states to muster support for Libya and for his own country should it too find itself in a similar stand-off with the West. Diplomats in the Gulf said Syria feared UN sanctions against Libya could eventually lead to similar measures taken against Syria, which is still on the US list of countries supporting terrorism. The Syrian state-run airlines will not comply with UN sanctions against Libya and intend to continue its flights to Tripoli. The government made no official announcement on the continuation of the flights, but the Syrian press has criticized the UN-imposed sanctions. So far, only Iraq and Sudan in the Arab world said they will not honour the sanctions. Meanwhile, Arab observers have expressed fear that Washington will seek tougher sanctions against Libya — probably a freeze of foreign assets — if Tripoli fails to surrender two Libyans in the Lockerbie airliner bombing to be tried in Scotland. Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi met on Tuesday with Egypt's Hosni Mubarak near the Libyan-Egyptian borders to discuss the UN sanctions and the possibility of surrendering the two men.

ALGERIERS: Ali Haroun, a member of Algeria's five-man presidency, has said that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was banned because it committed murder, assassination and other violent acts. His remarks were the first official comment on why the FIS was ordered dissolved on February 4.

KUWAIT: Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with top Kuwaiti officials on political ties, oil policy and the return of Kuwaiti airplane flown to Iran by Iraq during the Gulf war. The two countries were reported in disagreement over foreign interference in the security of the Gulf region.

BAGHDAD: A UN expert leading the destruction of Iraqi ballistic missile production facilities has said the demolition was going well and Iraq was complying with Security Council demands. Christopher Holland said he expected all related equipment and buildings to be destroyed this week.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israeli occupation authorities will permit the gradual reopening of the last of six Palestinian universities shut during much of the four-year Palestinian uprising, the Israeli defence ministry has said. A spokesman for Bir Zeit University said he hoped some classes would resume by April 25, but stressed no opening date has been set.

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Editor-in-Chief
Osama El-Sharif

Building a better mousetrap

Taiwan awakens world to realities

SINCE THE inauguration of the Six-Year National Development Plan in July of last year, the ROC's foreign relations have expanded on many fronts, diplomatic ties or no.

What with Taipei and Peking both claiming sovereignty over all China, it has not been easy for the ROC — physically controlling only Taiwan and adjoining island outposts — to win the formal recognition of even those countries agreeing with ROC principles and supporting Taiwan's fight for freedom and democracy for all the Chinese people.

Since early 1988, however, the Taipei leadership has reshaped its foreign policy in the interests of forming "substantial," if not substantive, relationships with other countries outside the pale of political protocol in regard to diplomatic recognition and sensitivities over sovereignty.

This new trailblazing foreign policy, often described as "pragmatic" or "flexible," has not yet been fully explored by scholarly research or dissertation as to its past and present effectiveness and potential long-term influence on the affairs of nations. The ROC's use of it has been enhanced by the position of strength the Taipei government has been able to deal from because of Taiwan's continuing economic growth and the lucrative foreign contracts up for grabs in the US\$303 billion Six-Year National Development Plan.

The ROC's ambitious, multi-billion-dollar plan of development is aimed at elevating Taiwan to fully industrialized status by the end of this century with the help of the expertise of friendly nations vying for the construction projects.

During the past several months, many high-level foreign officials have visited Taiwan, even though their countries officially recognize mainland China government.

Former US Secretary of State George Shultz visited the island in November 1991. French Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Jean-Noel Jeanneney came in January 1992, and John Redwood, Britain's minis-

ter of corporate affairs for the Department of Trade and Industry, became the highest-ranking British official to visit Taiwan in 42 years when he dropped in on Taipei in February.

Australian Minister of Transport and Communications Graham Richardson reportedly expects to visit the ROC in March. Richardson will become the first Australian minister-level official to visit the ROC while still in office.

Then, late last month, Beverly Dolan, vice chairman of the US President's Export Council, led a trade mission to Taiwan, the first such delegation approved and supported by an American president in 10 years. The EC vice president Martin Bangemann visited Taiwan from April 10-13, and Ministry-Level officials from the Netherlands are due in Taiwan this week, while May will witness visits by officials from Sweden and Finland. The trend by which more European government officials are visiting Taiwan was spearheaded by France last year.

The main incentive of these visits by these statesmen was to seek possible opportunities for participation of their industrial captains in the ROC's Six-Year National Development Plan, and to promote the kind of bilateral economic relations that would make such investment possible.

Other countries such as Canada, Italy, Japan, Ger-

many and Russia — all having diplomatic ties with Peking — also have improved their relations with Taiwan to benefit from the dynamic island's free-wheeling global enterprise.

Latvia and the Philippines are two of the most important examples of how the ROC has been developing its foreign relations in the world to which Mainland Communist China has been trying to shut the door to Taiwan.

Latvia, one of the 15 republics in the former Soviet Union, concluded a consulate exchange pact with the ROC on Jan. 29 of this year, allowing Taipei to set up a consulate-general office under the name of the Republic of China in the capital city of Riga.

The newly Independent Baltic state is the first country to establish government-to-government relations with the ROC while still maintaining formal diplomatic ties with the Chinese government on the mainland.

The Latvia case is very meaningful for Taipei authorities because it broke Peking's diplomatic bottleneck, effectively demonstrating that Taiwan's economic achievement has upgraded the ROC's political status in the international community.

The fact that Peking did not sever relations with the Baltic state over the pact, as it did when seven other countries recognized the legitimacy of the ROC in re-

cent years, was also considered indicative that Peking officials were aware of their own need for greater flexibility and tolerance in regard to Taipei's economic diplomacy.

The Taipei-Manila investment guarantee agreement, enacted Feb. 28 of this year, was another diplomatic victory for the ROC.

This pact was witnessed and endorsed by ROC Vice Economics Minister Lee Shu-jou and Philippines Under-secretary of Trade and Commerce Tomas Alcantara, giving Taipei new incentive to forge stronger ties with countries having no diplomatic ties with the island.

The official titles of the two countries were printed on the Taipei-Manila pact, the first time the name of the Republic of China has appeared on an official agreement Taipei has struck with a country that recognized Peking.

The other political victory for Taipei in regard to the Philippines was the fact that President Corason Aquino announced on Feb. 24 of this year that she was lifting a ban on visits to Taiwan by high-level officials of the Manila government.

Former US President Richard Nixon's visit to mainland China two decades ago sparked the "China fever" that spread quickly throughout the world. The Western world sud-

denly found that mainland China was not only strategically significant in countering the former Soviet Union, but also economically meaningful in absorbing Western products.

Twenty years later, however, the fever over the potential of the mainland has cooled, due to the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Awakening the sleeping giant that was the Chinese mainland did not particularly benefit the Western world because the Marxist system had too severely hamstrung the behemoth for too long to allow it to match the pace of the world that was so rapidly passing it by.

But now, Taiwan's economic achievement has sparked a new kind of China fever on the international scene.

This Chinese economic animal, one of Asia's "Four Little Dragons," did not have to be awakened.

With the world's richest holdings of foreign currency reserves and fast approaching 10th ranking among international traders, Taiwan has been awakening the world to what can be accomplished by profit-oriented entrepreneurs operating in a free enterprise environment — and an appreciative world has suddenly become very pragmatic about the value of "substantial relations" in the absence of diplomatic ties. ■

SUCCESS STORY of R.O.C. (TAIWAN)

	GROWTH RATE %	GNP (US\$ BILLION)	PER CAPITA GNP (US\$)	EXPORT US\$ BILLION	IMPORT US\$ BILLION	CONSUMER PRICES CHANGE %
1953	9.34	1.5	159	0.1	0.2	18.79
1960	6.44	1.7	143	7.2	7.3	18.44
1970	11.32	5.7	360	1.5	1.5	3.58
1980	7.12	41.4	2,344	19.8	19.7	19.01
1981	5.76	48.0	2,669	22.6	21.2	16.33
1982	4.05	48.5	2,653	22.2	18.9	2.96
1983	8.65	52.5	2,823	25.1	20.3	1.35
1984	11.59	59.8	3,167	30.5	22.0	0.02
1985	5.55	36.1	3,297	30.7	20.1	0.17
1986	12.57	77.3	3,993	38.8	24.2	0.70
1987	11.87	103.2	5,275	35.6	35.0	0.52
1988	7.84	125.3	6,333	60.6	49.7	1.28
1989	7.33	150.3	7,512	66.2	82.2	4.41
1990	5.29	161.7	7,997	67.2	54.7	4.13
1991	7.32	180.2	8,815	76.2	62.8	4.20
PROJECTIONS						
1996	7.0	298.5	13,975	99.4	95.5	3.50

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Roman pour occidentaux

Intifada, le "rêve fou" des Palestiniens

Sami Al-Sharif, auteur jordanien signe son premier roman sur la révolte des pierres dans les Territoires-occupés. En Français dans le texte!

LA PREMIERE qualité de ce livre, c'est qu'il est écrit en Français. Sami Al-Sharif, l'auteur jordanien, voulait que "Les rêves fous d'un lanceur de pierres" puisse émouvoir les masses occidentales. C'était sa principale motivation. Faire en sorte que les somptueux accords entre les rebelles palestiniens et les patrouilles israéliennes ne se résument plus à des chiffres techniques. Deux morts et tant de blessés, disent les journaux dans des articles qui n'intéressent plus personne. Qui banalisent la mort en l'affichant tous les jours à la "une". Sami Al-Sharif leur répond en les utilisant. "Les Rêves fous d'un lanceur de pierres" est un engouffrement d'histoires vraies, pleines de deux longues années dans toutes sortes de "canards". L'écriture redonne vie aux dépêches. Il refait les scènes, comme celui d'Ahmad, martyr de la résistance.

La Cause

Des personnages comme celui-ci, il en existe des milliers dans les Territoires-occupés. Mais ils ont tous les mêmes réflexes, les mêmes mots sortant de leurs bouches: la Cause, l'Etat palestinien... Des concepts qui deviennent le pain quotidien des révoltés des T.O. Jour et nuit, ces gens sont à la merci d'un contrôle d'identité ou d'une descente de police. Un jeune peut à tout moment, pour avoir lancé une pierre, déclencher des représailles. La tension est permanente. Un lever de soleil, c'est toujours ça de gagné sur une vie qui peut s'arrêter. C'est une peur d'espoir dans une guerre où tous les coups sont permis.

Les combattants de l'intifada utilisent une palette d'armes qui va du vulgaire caillou à la procréation. Les Palestiniens sont "faibles" dit Sami Al-Sharif. Il veut dire que faire des enfants, c'est aussi fabriquer des combattants. Lorsque Linda, charmante palestinienne veut se marier avec Ammar, héros de la résistance, elle ne peut pas se marier, elle n'a qu'une idée en tête: la succession. Il doit être un garçon et devenir membre de la Direction Nationale Unifiée de l'intifada, de Ha-

mas. Ou bien agir comme le jeune Khader qui décide de répandre de l'huile sur la route pour stopper l'avancée d'une patrouille israélienne. Il affable son opération commando du nom de sa mère, "Oum Amer", avant de se rendre aux troupes ennemies. A la "cinquième armée" du monde.

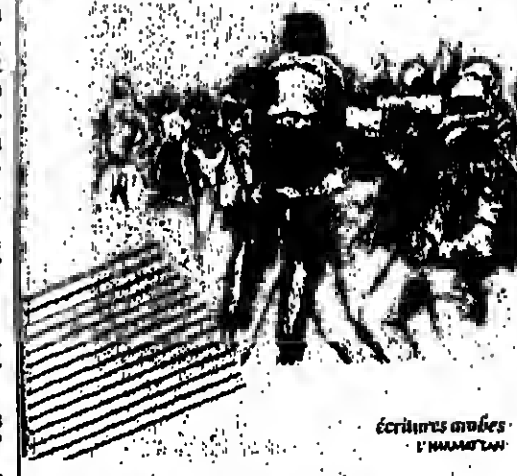
Le roman de Sami Al-Sharif n'emploie pas de termes édulcorés et ironiques pour désigner l'ennemi. Pas de "voisins" qui tiennent. Les Israéliens sont nommés et diabolisés à l'extrême. La Jeep est décrite comme une "monture du mal", conçue pour "écraser, évincer, terroriser". Elle fait tout pour rendre "handicapé, incapable et terrifié". Et ses occupants? L'image idéalisée du soldat qui casse les bras des Palestiniens à coups de pierre n'est que brouille à côté de celle donnée dans le roman. Ici, il n'y a pas d'armes, d'un revolver, aussi bien les femmes que les enfants. Et en plus avec un cynisme qui confine au sadisme.

"Dot pour la paix"

Un soir, un gouverneur militaire quelconque annonce aux parents les "dépêches malencontreuses" de leurs fils. Il leur présente "les condoléances de Tjahal et des auteurs de l'acte qui ne faisaient qu'accomplir leurs tâches et appliquer les ordres". Il ajoute, en guise de blague: "Ils sont la dot qui devrait être payée des deux côtés pour arriver à la paix". L'auteur, c'est un secret pour personne, est d'origine palesti-

Sami Al-Sharif

Les rêves fous d'un lanceur de pierres

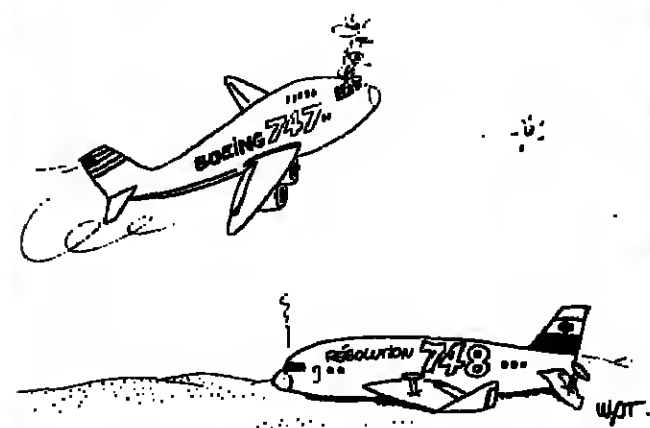


nienne. Il est né à Jérusalem en 1962. Bien que n'ayant pas vécu l'intifada, il embrasse la Cause à sa manière, en suivant des études en France. Sami Al-Sharif est titulaire d'une licence et d'une maîtrise en traduction et interprétation de l'Université de Lyon II et docteur ès-Lettres en Littérature et Civilisation Française de l'Université de Lyon III. Ce roman, qui selon lui, paraît dans la langue du peuple le plus sensible aux problèmes des Palestiniens en appelle un autre. Le suivant, "Le perdant de Bagdad à Jérusalem" plante son décor dans le Golfe, lors de l'expulsion en masse des Palestiniens. Un deuxième témoignage romancé, mais pas encore édité qui vise tout comme le premier les masses occidentales désinformées. ■

Francis Mazoyer

"Les rêves fous d'un lanceur de pierres" aux éditions L'Harmattan, 1992.

LA LIBYE SOUS EMBARGO



La Syrie, qui a menacé à deux reprises de braver l'embargo aérien contre la Libye a dû subir les accusations du Time Magazine. Selon le journal, l'attentat de Lockerbie aurait été organisé par un terroriste syrien. Celui-ci aurait été six employés de la CIA qui voyageaient dans l'avion.

JORDANIE, TOUT UN MONDE

DEMENTI - Adnan Abou Odeh, qui avait échafaudé un plan pour Jérusalem dans le journal "Foreign Affairs", a été aussitôt rappelé à l'ordre par Kamel Abu Jaber. Selon le ministre des Affaires étrangères, le tout nouvel ambassadeur de Jordanie auprès des Nations Unies à Washington ne se serait exprimé qu'en son nom propre. Adnan Abu Odeh prône la création de "deux capitales dans Jérusalem non divisée". Quant à la vieille ville, elle doit selon lui "appartenir au monde entier et aux trois religions".

JABER - "Nous avons réussi à nous réconcilier avec l'Ouest" a déclaré dimanche le ministre des Affaires étrangères. "Une nouvelle page est ouverte" a ajouté Kamel Abu Jaber faisant référence à la période de la guerre du Golfe qui a vu la population jordanienne afficher clairement ses sympathies envers l'Irak.

LYBIE - "La politique jordanienne a toujours consisté à se soumettre à la loi internationale et aux résolutions des Nations Unies" a déclaré un officiel anonyme jordanien, à propos de l'affaire de la Libye. "La Jordanie va donc respecter les sanctions internationales contre la Libye" a-t-il ajouté. Tels sont les seuls indices sur la position jordanienne vis-à-vis de cette question.

HASSAN - Le "nouvel ordre mondial" est un ordre boiteux, selon le Prince Hassan. "Cette idée est motivée par des intérêts personnels" a-t-il ajouté lors de son récent voyage à Tunis. Le Prince Hassan a par ailleurs lancé un appel pour la création d'un "nouvel ordre arabe".

A VOIR...

CINEMA - "Pauline à la plage", lundi 27 avril, un film de Eric Rohmer avec Amanda Langlet, Simon de la Brosse. Fin d'été sur une plage normande. Un chassé croisé amoureux entre six personnages qui entendent bien rester seuls avec l'idée qu'ils se font de leur amour.

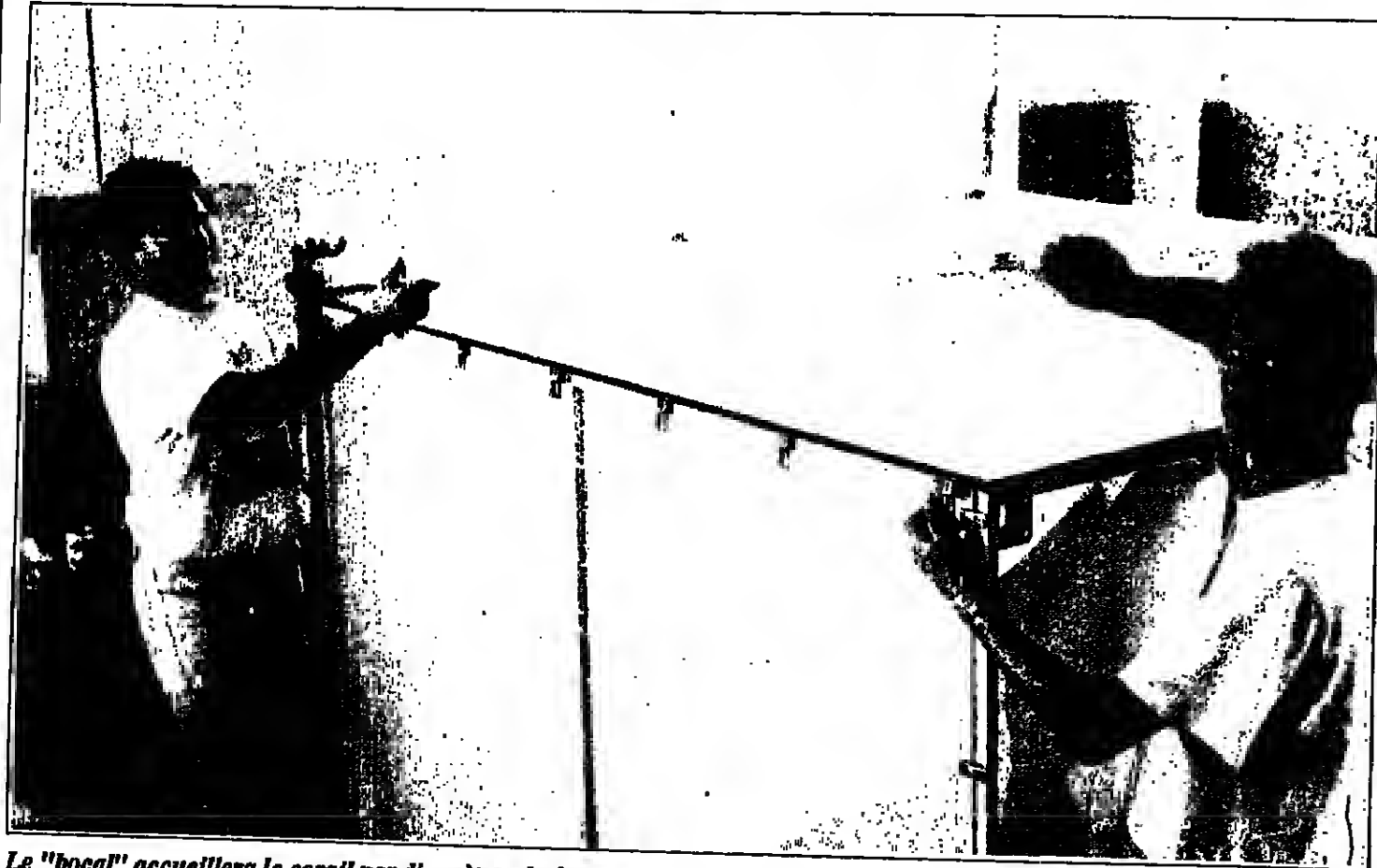
DANSE - "L'Espagnole, Water Music", deux ballets par la compagnie Ris et Dançeries mercredi 29 avril à 20h00 au Centre Culturel Royal. 1/ L'Espagnole. Sur des musiques de danses de François Couperin (1688-1733), la chorégraphe Francine Lancelot a monté un spectacle "Grand Siècle" d'une beauté baroque.

2/ Water Music. Sur une musique de Georg-Friedrich Haendel (1685-1759), la chorégraphe Béatrice Massin présente une autre fête galante de cour...

Première mondiale

Du corail en bocal pour mieux respirer

Notre planète est menacée par l'accroissement permanent de dioxyde de carbone dans l'atmosphère. Avant que le pire n'arrive, une équipe de chercheurs français va peut-être trouver la solution en se servant du corail d'Aqaba emprisonné sous une cloche.



Le "bocal" accueillera le corail par dix mètres de fond.

Envoyé spécial à Aqaba
Philippe Paupert

C'EST parce que l'atmosphère terrestre est en danger que le récif de corail d'Aqaba va passer quelques jours dans une "prison". Fumées des usines, pots d'échappement des voitures, explosions volcaniques... et même respiration des hommes, le bon air que nous inhalons est en voie de disparition. Depuis le début du siècle, la concentration de dioxyde de carbone dans l'atmosphère a augmenté de 30%. Aujourd'hui, l'activité humaine libère près de 25 milliards de tonnes de dioxyde de carbone par an. Bien plus que ne peuvent en absorber nos forêts.

Animal ou végétal?

La photosynthèse à la surface du globe s'essouffle devant cet afflux de gaz carbonique que les plantes doivent fixer et transformer. Si l'animal humain veut sauver sa peau pour les siècles à venir, il doit mieux comprendre pourquoi l'équilibre gazeux de sa planète est bouleversé. Les scientifiques de l'Observatoire océanologique européen de Monaco, de l'Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis et de l'Observatoire océanologique de Villefranche sur Mer ont construit pour ça un drôle d'aquarium. Sous la houlette du professeur Jean Jaubert de l'Université de Nice, un cube de plexiglass de dix mètres cubes sera immergé autour d'une "patate" de corail du golfe d'Aqaba.

Isoler temporairement un récif dans son milieu marin dont on contrôle les dimensions permet d'étudier le fonctionnement de

l'écosystème corallien et de mesurer son interaction avec l'écosystème planétaire. En clair, la question des chercheurs français est de savoir si le corail consomme du gaz carbonique (la couche superficielle des océans absorbant alors le trop-plein de dioxyde de carbone de l'atmosphère) ou s'il en rejette (l'échange entre océan et atmosphère aggraverait alors la situation en surface). Autre question en suspens mais dont la solution est indispensable: qu'est-ce qu'un corail? S'il agit d'un animal, il libère du gaz carbonique, si c'est une plante, il en consomme.

Les résultats de l'expérience donneront peut-être la réponse. Pendant une semaine, la "patate" de corail sera sous haute surveillance. Les capteurs installés dans la cloche de plexiglass enregistreront les modifications de lumière, de température et de composition de l'eau contenue dans le "bocal". Un bateau-laboratoire analysera jour et nuit les données. Plusieurs manipulations sont au programme. D'abord, l'étude de la colonne d'eau qui surplombe le corail à dix mètres de profondeur, ensuite l'observation en enclos clos du récif et finalement l'analyse des échanges canalisés en laissant émerger une partie de la cloche. Ces trois expériences, tentées pour la première fois au monde, sont complémentaires. Elles permettront de définir si le corail est capable d'encalsser les variations de gaz carbonique contenu dans l'atmosphère.

Le squelette du corail ne fait pas seulement le bonheur des marchands de souvenirs d'Aqaba, il réjouit aussi les océ-

nologues. En badassant son squelette, le corail utilise les carbonates de calcium dissous dans l'eau des rivières ou la pluie... Et ces carbonates du calcium fixent le dioxyde de carbone. Mais si ce système de fixation était le seul à fonctionner, il y a bien longtemps que tout le gaz carbonique de l'atmosphère aurait été absorbé... Il y a donc un truc... Les chercheurs français ont bâti une hypothèse: le corail est un petit malin... Sans ordinateur ni électronique, Monsieur Corail comprend quand l'atmosphère est trop chargée en gaz carbonique car la couche superficielle des océans s'acidifie... L'animal-corail se transforme alors en plante-corail et la photosynthèse entre en action, fixant le dioxyde de carbone. Ouf, on respire... Au contraire, si l'atmosphère enregistre une carence en gaz carbonique (hypothèse peu probable en ces temps de pollution), Monsieur Corail se déguise en animal et rejette donc du gaz carbonique. Ouf, on respire aussi... Mais le danger n'est pas écarté pour autant. L'expérience que tente l'équipe française ne résoudra pas nos problèmes atmosphériques... Elle permettra seulement de mieux connaître le corail et ses facultés de régulation.

L'avenir en rose-corail

Aujourd'hui, il y a urgence. Les scientifiques savent bien que le système de "régulation fine" du corail ne peut plus encaisser le terrible accroissement du taux de dioxyde de carbone dans l'atmosphère. Les plus pessimistes parlent d'un délai de 50 ans seulement avant le scénario

catastrophe: dérégulation climatique, sécheresse gagnant progressivement l'ensemble de la planète... Avant d'en arriver là, les océanologues français gardent les pieds sur le fond des océans...

Après cette série d'expériences à Aqaba, ils agrandiront leur cloche de plexiglass pour encore mieux lier connaissance avec leur ami corail et deviner ce qui nous attend si nous continuons à polluer notre atmosphère. Le professeur Jaubert rêve même de construire une ferme à coraux... Une façon d'encourager le dégauchage de notre air. Un rêve qui pourrait bien devenir réalité puisque le professeur Jaubert est le seul scientifique qui arrive à reconstituer et cultiver des coraux dans ses aquariums. Selon lui, le corail serait susceptible de contrôler un tiers de la régulation globale du gaz carbonique. C'est pourquoi l'expérience d'Aqaba revêt une telle importance à ses yeux.

Dernier volet de cette expérience: le problème de la calcification du corail (la construction du squelette) pourrait trouver sa solution avec cette étude des échanges gazeux. Depuis trente ans, les chercheurs se cassent les dents sur cette question et les enseignements de la cloche de plexiglass d'Aqaba pourraient bien composer le dernier chapitre de la thèse d'un chercheur jordanien. Cet océanologue a la réponse au problème de la calcification du corail au bout de son éprouvette dans les laboratoires de l'Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis. La cloche de plexiglass immergée à Aqaba sera bientôt une mine d'enseignement... Le corail est peut-être l'avenir de l'homme... P.P.

L'EDITO

Désillusion

A la veille du cinquième round des pourparlers entre Arabes et Israéliens à Washington, les sondages indiquent que le taux d'opinions palestiniennes favorables aux négociations avec l'Etat hébreu est passé, depuis les réunions de Madrid et de Moscou, de 61,3% à 39,5%. Une chute vertigineuse. Un constat de faillite vis-à-vis d'un processus qui doit en principe régler l'un des différends les plus tenaces, et qui déstabilise l'échiquier politique international. Un résultat pour le moins inquiétant, eu égard à l'enthousiasme que devaient manifester les Palestiniens envers ces négociations. Le rêve serai-il en train de virer su cauchemar?

Cet inquiétant recul est d'une part le résultat de la désillusion des habitants des Territoires occupés face à des pourparlers toujours dans l'impasse. D'autre part, l'aggravation de la situation en Cisjordanie et à Gaza, où la répression israélienne s'intensifie, et les opérations militaires au Sud Liban, n'ont fait qu'écarter davantage la moindre confiance qu'accordaient certains Palestiniens aux dirigeants hébreux à la veille de Madrid.

La réaction du milieu de Palestiniens récemment interrogé, ne devrait étonner personne. Les négociateurs palestiniens multiplient les concessions et leur délégitimation s'accroît. Le processus de paix ne peut pas continuer à se dérouler ainsi. Il n'y a qu'un seul remède à cette situation: la direction légitime du peuple palestinien (l'OLP) en tant que tel, au gouvernement de Shamir. Il reprend de plus belle son rôle intrinsèque et insistant, comme à la veille de chaque round.

Le Premier Ministre israélien rappelle aux Arabes qu'ils se laissent enlever par Israël un seul pouce des Territoires arabes occupés. De la provocation pure et simple. Et cela ne va pas tarder à donner des résultats négatifs. A court terme, le moral des Palestiniens va s'effriter. Et ce tant que les Israéliens, forts de la bienveillance des Américains, rejettent la règle du jeu: "Les Territoires contre la paix".

A long terme, nous-mêmes, les Palestiniens, courrons à la catastrophe. Car pour les Palestiniens, la situation peut difficilement être pire. Pour les occupants, le statu quo imposé par l'aide extérieure ne va pas durer longtemps. Les expériences précédentes ont démontré que quelle que soit la puissance des occupants, ils finissent toujours par céder.

Israël refuse de regarder la réalité en face, et cela risque de lui jouer des tours. Les droits des Palestiniens vont, peut-être lui être imposés un jour par ses amis occidentaux. Et Shamir devra alors assumer seul, le poids de ses erreurs politiques.

Télex... Orient

EMBARGO - La Syrie a été contrainte d'appliquer lundi l'embargo aérien contre la Libye qu'elle n'hésite pas à dénoncer par ailleurs. Selon une source aéronautique à Chypre, ce dernier pays, la Grèce et l'Egypte ont refusé le passage d'un vol de sa compagnie nationale dans leurs espaces aériens respectifs. Le vol de la Syrian Arab Airlines, qui devait décoller de Damas, lundi à 12h30 locales (9h30 GMT), a été reporté à une date indéterminée.

OTAGES - La prise d'otages dimanche à l'ambassade d'Arabie saoudite à Sanaa au Yémen a pris fin lundi après une vingtaine d'heures de tractations. Un Yéménite armé menaçait l'ambassadeur saoudien et un de ses conseillers de faire exploser la chancellerie si on ne lui remettait pas un million de dollars.

BIR ZEIT - Le ministre israélien de la Défense, Moshe Arens, a autorisé lundi la réouverture progressive de l'Université de Bir Zeit. Cette faculté palestinienne, la plus prestigieuse des Territoires occupés était close depuis plus de quatre ans et demi. Bir Zeit, proche de Ramallah en Cisjordanie, était la dernière des Universités, fermées sur ordre des autorités israéliennes.

SOUTIEN - Un comité saoudien d'aide aux Palestiniens a versé lundi une nouvelle aide à l'OLP, d'un montant de 1,5 millions de dollars. Le directeur du "Comité populaire saoudien d'aide aux combattants de la Palestine" a déclaré que cette somme proviendrait d'une taxe de 5% prélevée sur les salaires des Palestiniens travaillant dans le royaume et de contributions de Saoudiens. Ce versement porte à 16,75 millions de dollars l'aide apportée par ce Comité à la Centrale palestinienne depuis le mois de septembre dernier.

KOWEIT - Le Conseil des ministres du Koweït a qualifié dimanche de "réalisation historique importante" le tracé définitif de sa frontière terrestre avec l'Irak, annoncé jeudi par une commission spéciale de l'ONU. Cette décision "consacre le droit du Koweït", a souligné le Conseil.

BUSH - Le président des Etats-Unis a formellement démenti samedi à Kennebunkport avoir autorisé l'Arabie Saoudite à transporter secrètement des armes américaines à la Syrie et au Bangladesh après la guerre du Golfe. "Non", a répondu George Bush au quotidien Los Angeles Times, qui avait affirmé le matin même que le gouvernement américain avait, sans en informer le Congrès, autorisé l'Arabie Saoudite à livrer des véhicules blindés à ces deux pays.

Portrait du HCR

Pour aider la cause des réfugiés

Le HCR, réparti dans le monde entier, est aussi présent à Amman. Depuis un an et demi, comme dans 89 autres pays étrangers, le bureau jordanien accomplit sa mission de tous les jours.

HCR, OU Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés. Apolitique par ses statuts, mais universel puisque destiné aux réfugiés du monde entier, où qu'ils soient et d'où qu'ils soient. A l'exception des Palestiniens dont la complexité et la multiplicité des problèmes nécessitent (c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire) une agence spéciale des Nations Unies, l'UNRWA, qui ne s'occupe que de cette catégorie de réfugiés.

Le HCR a été créé en 1951 pour une période de trois ans. Du provisoire qui dure, puisqu'il a dû être maintenu jusqu'à présent. En quarante ans, il a aidé plus de 28 millions de réfugiés dans le monde entier. En 1991, près de 17 millions de personnes étaient recensées, 7 millions d'entre elles se trouvant en Asie du Sud-Est et au Moyen-Orient.

Prise en charge

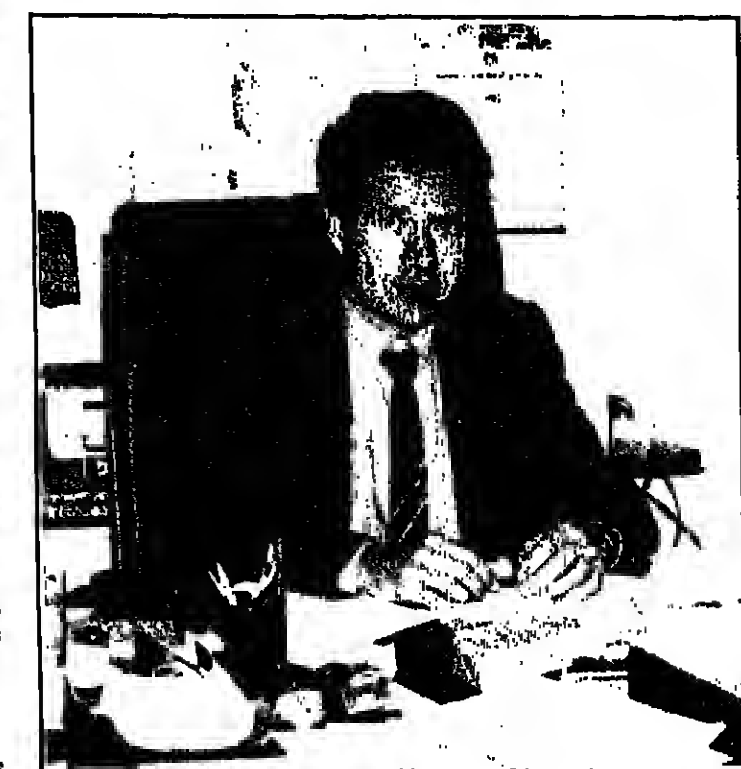
Le HCR s'est fixé deux tâches principales: fournir aux réfugiés une protection internationale et rechercher des solutions permanentes à leurs problèmes. Depuis sa création, il a beaucoup développé ses activités d'assistance matérielle. Une fois la phase d'urgence passée et les premiers secours assurés, le HCR s'emploie à lancer des programmes d'enseignement et de formation professionnelle pour que les réfugiés soient responsables de leur propre avenir et de leur subsistance. Une grande attention est portée aux femmes et aux enfants qui constituent le vrai plus de réfugiés dans le monde.

Le financement du HCR dépend essentiellement de contributions volontaires accordées par des gouvernements, des ONG et des particuliers. Sur les 90 bureaux qui s'occupent du tragique problème des réfugiés, celui d'Amman est l'un des plus récents.

Réfugiés du Golfe

Avril 1990. L'Irak annexe le Koweït. C'est le début d'une longue crise qui précipite sur les routes des milliers de réfugiés. Soit issue possible pour ces "otages" d'une situation qu'ils n'ont pas voulue: la Jordanie. Les autorités locales vont agir efficacement mais avec des moyens limités.

L'accueil des premiers arrivants est rapidement assuré. Puis en octobre 1990, un bureau du HCR s'établit à Amman. Jusqu'à cette époque, les évacués semblaient capables de rentrer chez eux sans trop de problèmes, comme M. Janvier de Riedmatten, directeur du bureau



Janvier de Riedmatten

d'Amman. "Puis on a remarqué qu'un certain nombre d'entre-eux étaient de véritables réfugiés, comme les Somaliens. Quand on a compris que la guerre était inévitable, le HCR s'est associé à d'autres agences des Nations Unies et à des ONG comme la Croix Rouge et le Croissant Rouge, pour élaborer un plan d'action à

cas individuels se présentent de temps en temps. Pour demander un service ou un autre: une protection et assistance matérielle, une aide pour retourner dans le pays d'origine. Ou pour obtenir le statut de réfugié qui répond à des critères bien définis", explique Janvier de Riedmatten.

Aujourd'hui, il ne reste plus qu'un seul camp, situé à Aqaba. Pendant la crise du Golfe, il servait de camp de transit pour les évacués et pouvait accueillir jusqu'à 3.000 personnes. Il est maintenant destiné aux Egyptiens qui doivent attendre en Jordanie avant de pouvoir se rendre en Arabie Saoudite ou de rentrer dans leur pays. Le camp abrite aussi une trentaine de Somaliens qui attendent la régularisation de leur situation.

Selon M. de Riedmatten, la coopération entre le HCR et le gouvernement jordanien est excellente bien que les moyens, du côté jordanien, soient limités. "La Jordanie a accompli un travail considérable avant notre arrivée. Malheureusement, elle n'a pas été récompensée pour ces efforts comme elle l'aurait mérité et souhaité".

Michèle Rieux

on des personnes sortant d'Irak" ajoute-t-il. Un superbe travail d'équipe pour s'occuper d'une infrastructure d'accueil capable d'héberger jusqu'à 100.000 personnes à la fois. Au total, un million d'évacués ont dû transiter par la Jordanie.

Après la guerre, le bureau du HCR d'Amman est devenu un appel logistique à l'action du bureau permanent du HCR en Irak, plus particulièrement au nord du pays. Un support qui se poursuit encore aujourd'hui. Mais, selon son directeur, ses activités tendent à se réduire. Une certaine routine s'est installée. La salle d'attente est parfois occupée par une dizaine de personnes. Des

Télex... France

CHARTRE - Le Premier ministre arménien, Gagik Haroutounian a signé vendredi dernier à Paris la Charte de Paris de la CSCE (Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe), après s'être longuement entretenu avec le président François Mitterrand du problème du Nagorny-Karabakh. L'Arménie est le cinquième pays issu de l'ex-URSS, après les trois Etats baltes et le Belarus, à signer ce document adopté lors du sommet de Paris de la CSCE en novembre 1990.

GALLO - Le quotidien français Libération a publié un rapport de l'Institut Américain de la Santé (NIH), présenté comme une version finale des travaux de l'équipe du Professeur Robert Gallo sur le virus du Sida, en 1983-84. Ce rapport relate, selon le quotidien français, l'accusation de "mauvaise conduite scientifique" à l'égard d'un des principaux collaborateurs du Professeur Gallo de l'époque, Mikulas Popovic. Cette charge n'est pas retenue contre le Professeur lui-même qui fait par ailleurs l'objet de vives critiques.

HOMMAGE - Quarante personnalités musulmanes de France, réunies dans un "collectif de défense de la grande Mosquée de Paris" ont rendu hommage dans un communiqué à l'ancien recteur de cette Mosquée, le Cheikh Tedjini Haddam. Devenu membre du Haut Comité d'Etat algérien en janvier, il avait dû démissionner de ses fonctions à la tête de la Mosquée de Paris sous la pression de nombreuses associations musulmanes et des autorités françaises.

RESEAU - Un réseau de cartes de séjour et de réadmission inondant Paris et sa banlieue Nord a été démantelé par la police. Six personnes, dont un Tunisien ont été arrêtées. Chedly Mohamed Beji, Tunisien de 44 ans, interpellé en flagrant délit a reconnu avoir pendant deux ans fourni environ 40.000 cartes de séjour ou de résident à raison de quarante par semaine.

FOOT - L'Olympique de Marseille, victorieux à Monaco (3-0), samedi à l'issue du match phare de la 36ème journée, s'est encore un peu plus rapproché d'un quatrième titre de champion de France consécutif. A deux journées de la fin, l'OM compte en effet trois longeurs d'avance sur une formation monégasque, sans doute fatiguée par sa qualification en finale de la Coupe des Coupes à Rotterdam.

CANNES - Le 45ème festival de Cannes, qui proposera du 7 au 18 mai 22 films en sélection officielle, dont 21 en compétition, sera placé sous le signe du divertissement, du spectaculaire, sans pour autant renoncer au haut de gamme. Blas-Units, France, Grande Bretagne et CEI seront les plus présents à Cannes qui recevra 13 pays.

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● HRH Princess Basma opened Sunday the Friends of Patients with Liver-Diseases Society's annual charitable bazaar. On display were handicrafts and artificial flowers in addition to various items donated by commercial and industrial, local and foreign establishments. Proceeds of the bazaar, which was attended by members of the society's administration and friends, will help finance society projects.

● The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan is preparing for the Jordan International Rally which will take place at the end of May. The organizing committee now aims at attracting some of the best international drivers. Participants will come from countries such as Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Club officials say that with cars that meet international standards and a team of renowned drivers, the event will be a cut-throat competition.

The race track will be, as usual, situated to the south of Amman, where the national rally of 10 April was held, thus giving Jordanian drivers the advantage of being familiarized with the tracks.

The Jordan International Rally will be divided into two phases, with different prizes for each phase. Phase I will be dedicated to the championship of the Middle East rallies, in which 'A' and 'N' categories of cars will participate. 'N' category stands for ordinary cars, which have no accessories, while 'A' cars are modified and fitted for rallies, to increase their engine power (HP) and overall performance.

Cars running in Phase II will not score any points as far as the Championship of the Middle East Rallies is concerned.

● Former minister of energy Mr. Taha Taha has assumed his duties as the general manager of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) on 6 April of this year. Mr. Taha has held various positions at JPMC from 1974 to 1976.

Mr. Taha worked for 13 years as the general manager of the Arab Mining Corporation (AMC). He also worked as vice-president of the Arab Potash Co. (APC) and as board member of the Jordan Fertilizer Industries Company. Between 1989-1991, Mr. Taha was minister of energy and mineral resources. He replaces former JPMC director Mr. Wasef Azar.

● Monsignor Ra'ouf Najjar, chairman of Al Wasfiyah Vocational and Cultural Center, opened a charitable bazaar organized by the students at the center on the occasion of Palm Sunday.

On display were gifts, candles, palm leaves, eggs and sweets.

● The Marriott Hotel hosted a three-day children's book exhibition Friday, which featured the most up-to-date ranges of children's books from 12 British and American publishing houses.

Mr. Gabi Sharbain, director of the Jordan Book Center, who were organizers of the event, said that the books were mostly educational and that the exhibition was aimed largely at schools.

Alongside established publishers such as the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses, Heinemann and Longman, was a newcomer to the scene in Jordan — Mr. Christian Doumit, regional representative for the US based Scholastic books.

"We have come to fill a gap in the market," he announced proudly. "Scholastic books range from kindergarten age to 12 years. They deal with nature, fruit and colors; their ideas are universal. We move with the times and are here to capture our market share."

The Scholastic series covers educational books and has a good range of children's fiction. Scholastic also run a book club, with a monthly newsletter that allows children to select the types of books that they want to read.

Mr. Doumit, who publishes an academic newsletter in Cyprus, stressed the importance of getting children acquainted with books.

"The Gulf States are experiencing a number of problems at the moment with children who spend all their time in amusement arcades, neglecting their studies," he said. "Aren't books a good way for children to do something constructive with their time?"



● Mr. and Mrs. Naser Al Omari held a party to celebrate the birth of their first baby Tala who was born on 3 March of this year. Friends and neighbors joined the celebration and wished the baby girl a long and a happy life.

Proceeds of the bazaar will go towards needy students and families. The event was attended by members of the administration, a number of teachers from the center, students and their families.

● Dr. Abdul Rahman Atiyat, acting president of Mo'ta University, opened an exhibition of models depicting scenes from Al Karameh Battle, showing the valor of the Jordanian army. The exhibition was organized by the deanships of students at both Mo'ta and Yarmouk universities. Attending were a number of deans of faculties and teachers, in addition to students and invited guests.

● The Science and Technology Club awarded certificates of appreciation and prizes to winners of the scientific creativity contest. The event was held last week at the Professional Unions Complex. Winners included 10 students from both the preparatory and secondary education levels in addition to three teachers.

The contest was prepared by the club's administration and was supervised by both the Ministry of Education and the Jordan Engineers Society (JES). Speeches were delivered by Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, chairman of the club; Mr. Husni Abu Ghaldia, president of JES; and Dr. Munther Al Masri, secretary general at the Ministry of Education.

● The United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) have organized a regional seminar on "Motivation, orientation and training techniques for enhancing industrial entrepreneurship in the ESCWA region." The seminar started 20 April and will end 25 April.

Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jabbar, under secretary-general of the United Nations, Executive Secretary of ESCWA, opened the seminar which is funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The seminar, which is being hosted by the Jordan Institute of Management, aims at reviewing and discussing the available entrepreneurship development training schemes in the ESCWA region as well as assessing training needs.

Twenty participants from ESCWA member states will make presentations on their institutions' experience in training schemes related to entrepreneurship development and on training needs, with particular emphasis on women's entrepreneurship.



ALICO members meet in Amman

● The Divisional Management of the American Life Insurance Company (ALICO), Middle East and Africa chose Amman as the place for its annual conference for this year. It was held at the Regency Palace Hotel from the 13-15 April.

The conference, entitled "1992: Commitment to Quality Growth and Quality Service", emphasized ALICO's commitment to expanding its service network, to include more territories in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa; and to reinforce training programs in both the technical and marketing aspects.

ALICO began operating in Jordan in 1958. It now provides life insurance coverage to thousands of Jordanians, not to mention its sizable investments in the sectors of industry, tourism and infrastructure. ALICO is a member of the American International Group (AIG), a giant in the world of insurance industry, with a network covering 160 countries around the world and assets amounting to \$69 billion.

In addition to Jordan, ALICO operates in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Bangladesh. It also has offices in the African countries Kenya, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

The conference was presided over by the president of ALICO's Middle East and Africa Division Mr. Abbas Khalaf. Also attending were ALICO's President Mr. Richard Collins along with 40 other company executives.

Monday 27 April at 6 pm.

Agenda

Films

● The American Cultural Center will be showing tonight the feature film "On the Waterfront" at 7 pm.

● The French Cultural Center will be showing the film "Pauline a la plage" on Monday 27 April at 8 pm.

Lectures

● At the British Council, Mr. Riad Al Khouri will lecture on "The Political Economy of Democratization in Jordan". The lecture, in English, will be on Tuesday 28 April at 7 pm.

● At ACOR, architect Ammar Khamash will deliver a lecture illustrated with slides on Monday 27 April at 7 pm. The lecture will concentrate on the economic, political, rationale for labor-intensive methods and the bulk of materials from the natural surroundings.

● At Al Raed Al Arabi school, Dr. Kamel Al Asali will be lecturing on "Jerusalem in the Arab and Muslim Travel Books" on

Exhibitions

● At the University of Jordan, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute Amman, there will be an exhibition entitled "Science and Technology as the Cornerstones of Industrialization" on Sunday 25 April at 11 am. The exhibition will run until 29 April.

● At Alin Art Gallery, the exhibition of Iraqi artists Khudair Al Sinukari and Khudair Jarej will still be open to the public until Sunday 26 April, daily from 10 am-1:30 pm and from 4-7 pm.

● At the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, the paintings of seven artists from the occupied territories will still be open to public until 14 May.

Ballet

● The French Cultural Center presents Francine Lancelot and Béatrice Massin in a ballet entitled "L'Espagnole, Water Music". The ballet will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Wednesday 29 April at 8 pm.

Speed Test

● At the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, an Okifox-sponsored speed test will be conducted on Friday 24 April.

Pen Pals

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By Glenn Plaskin

EVERY NIGHT, snuggling up close, a brown Lhasa Apso pokes his nose under some very famous toes.

"Charlie has seven lives," Diana Ross explains. "He's been bitten by another dog, he's lost one eye, he's probably going blind in the other, a leg went out of joint, and he was hit by a car!"

"Everything" has happened to Charlie — but he's still here. He's indestructible.

So is the resplendent, complex Miss Ross.

"Who do you want to talk to today?" she inquires mischievously. "There are many sides to who I am."

There's Tomboy Diana from Detroit's Brewster Projects, the ambitious 16-year-old with a nasal voice who harassed Motown's Berry Gordy until he gave her a chance. There's Motown Diana, oohing and aahing her way to stardom, then badgered 20 years' running for leaving her co-Supremes behind. Then there's Domestic Diana, mistress of two husbands and five children, and Diva Diana, who's depicted in pebble biographies as a kind of Eva Peron on a broom.

Is it any wonder that she doesn't always sleep well, even with Charlie by her side?

"Some nights I think I'm having a panic disorder," she laughs. "I wake up in the middle of the night trying to figure out — 'Where am I?' 'Where are my kids?'"

The kids — Rhonda, 20; Tracey, 18; Chudney, 16; and Rosa and Evan, both 3 — along with thousands of others were recently riveted when Diana Ross tackled the stage, unleashing 100 minutes of signature hits encompassing her 30-year career, plus preview cuts from her Motown album, *Force Behind the Power*.

In all of her concerts, Ross is backed by a precise 12-piece orchestra and will kick off the show with Supremes' standard meticulously re-created to match the original versions.

"I start with what's expected," she says, "then a segment of rhythm and danceable tunes, followed by 'Lady Sings the Blues', then the new stuff," heart-felt songs like 'Blame It on the Sun' and 'Waiting in the Wings', from *Force Behind the Power*.

Such songs seem to embody Ross's softer-edged, more lyrical approach nowadays, quite different from the frenetic pace of her 1989 album, *Workin' Overtime*.

Dubbed a "comeback" album following two back-to-back pregnancies and her return to Motown in 1988, the highly rhythmic "hip-hop" creation sold only 150,000 copies in the United States and was lambasted by critics.

"I liked the album and wouldn't have released it if I didn't," Ross says in her defense. "I'm not going to be stuck in one thing. I'd like to do ballads and jazz, and dance music. I don't DO everything the public wants. I can't."

One critic even harped that Ross was "too old to be prancing around in old jeans and a leather jacket."

And forget the theory that Ross's hip-hop was an attempt to keep pace with Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul or Whitney Houston.

"That's an awful thing to say," she scolds. "I wasn't even thinking about those girls when I did that album. In fact," she now giggles, "I never think about them."

Diana Ross:

Working overtime with the 'grande dame' of Motown



The "resplendent, complex Miss Ross"

gali, the hit maker who orchestrated her rise.

"I did love Berry," says Ross. "He was the most powerful, smart man I knew at that point in my life. He took nothing and made Motown." Gordy, however, was suffocating the singer with his bossiness. One Supremes hit, "My World Is Empty Without You," certainly spoke volumes for their suffocating relationship.

Gordy could neither remain faithful nor offer her marriage. Why not? "I'll save that for my book," she smiles.

"I was growing, feeling stifled by the control, and I wanted to make my own decisions."

Quitting the Supremes in 1970, she married Los Angeles press agent Robert Silberman. However, in the late 1970s, Mrs. Silberman became restless with marriage, and hungered for more independence. She divorced Silberman in 1976.

But isn't it tragic? "No. What happened to Flo is tragic, but people do die. I could have died. I guess she resented my being the star of the group. I think it's human nature."

Born in a Detroit ghetto on March 26, 1944, Diana (Diana was a birth certificate mistake) was a scrappy tomboy, the second-eldest of six children, a Pygmalion, who studied cosmetology and dressmaking, always "dreaming of a good life," she says.

Although her education-minded father strenuously opposed her craving for the stage, the girl persevered, giving herself to Berry Gordy, her 1960s 'Sven-

"I was NOT restless," Ross pipes in. "I was excited. I had gone directly from my parents' house to touring with the Supremes, then to marriage — and I had never been on my own! Those were the years I finally grew up."

Not lonely? "Absolutely not. I didn't think I would ever marry again, I wasn't looking for a husband — but a husband found me!"

Indeed, while vacationing at Lyford Kay in the Bahamas in 1985, Ross met Norwegian millionaire, Arne Naess, an avid mountain climber and shipping magnate with his own island, Tahiti, near Tahiti "a rugged, private and romantic man," says Ross.

"He's my best friend and I love him madly," she exclaims forthrightly, "and I would like this career of mine not to damage our relationship. Sometimes it's emotionally difficult for him, and I al-

ways have to explain and defend."

Would he like her to retire? "He feels I'm going to give it up when the time is right, but would never ever ever tell me to do it."

Better not, for 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' Diana is brimming with plans.

"I'd love to perform in (New York's) Central Park again," she says, "make a TV special, a Christmas album, have my own line of skin-care products and make a movie."

Sad subjects. After her electrifying film debut as Billie Holiday in *Lady Sings the Blues* in 1972 and *Mohogany* in 1976, her promising film career came to a halt after *The Wiz* in 1978.

Hollywood racism? "I don't know. I hate to say that, but I'd like to blame some people. Nobody was knocking my door down and in the late 1970s, there weren't too many movies made with blacks."

But you're Diana Ross.

"Yeah," she smiles wistfully. "I am. No one's life is perfect." "But there are many things to be thankful for," she adds, including a fortune estimated at about \$75 million, a 30-room, 10-acre estate, a duplex in Manhattan's Sherry Netherland, a waterside retreat in Malibu, her husband's two Swiss chalets, and a London flat.

Not bad for the poor girl from Detroit.

"I can't relax," she once said. "I have to be better than the best. Super-everything."

A hands-on mother, Ross has taken on chairing National Children's Day. "We need to bring awareness to the youth who have no voice. What about babies born with AIDS and addicted to crack? Who pays attention to homeless children? What do we do about teen pregnancies? How do we make a difference?"

In parting, a mellower Ross begins to sing the haunting words to "What Can One Person Do," her favorite cut from *Workin' Overtime*.

"What can one person do?" she sings sweetly, the unimpaired voice buoyant. "More than a little bit, more than a little bit."

"Can I fight the battle... All by myself... Can I make a miracle happen?... As long as I can think and got my health I'll never stop... I'm too strong for that."

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ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film: A French film about a musician, Anthony, who answers a personal ad in the local paper and gets to meet the beautiful lady who placed it.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings. "Around the world in 80 years". Helen, who has flunked her music test for so many years, decides to use a new approach to pass this year's test.
9:10 — The power of the neuron: A documentary program about the way the brain analyzes, stores and retrieves information. It also talks about the use of computers in studying the brain.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order. "The violence of summer": A famous TV announcer is raped. The District Attorney and the detectives do their best to catch the assailant.

MONDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest.
9:10 — Capital City: An old friend of Declan gets him into a bad financial deal. He is saved by Michael.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Stanley and the Women: Susan leaves the house because Stanley did not believe her story about Steve. Stanley does his best to bring her back.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Princesses. "Her highness for hire": Georgina is a professional dancer who is looking for a job that will lead her to Broadway.
9:10 — Rich Tea and Sympathy: George and Julia tease each other to spite their families, who work on getting them together.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Films. "The Bridges of Toko-Ri" Starring Grace Kelly: A film set in the Korean war, in which a hero dies after having successfully finished his mission.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Spatz. "Smart cookies": The staff members of both Spatz and their competitor Blimby hold a general knowledge contest in which the Spatz team wins.
9:10 — World of Audubon: A documentary program on yet another of man's victims — the ancient nomad, the sea turtles.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The other side of paradise: A tribal wedding between princess Aleena and Manna.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. "La chevalier d'écailles". A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine. A series about a family: Odile is celebrating her 40th birthday.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine. A cultural magazine.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Valiant. A new series.
5:50 — Des chiffres et des lettres. A program about the completion of numbers and letters

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons: Homer Simpson works on a diet program, while his wife decides to enter a painting contest.
9:10 — N.B.A. Basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week. "Daddy" Starring Patrick Duffy and Lynda Carter: The film is about a woman who shatters her happy family, and leaves her good husband to pick up the pieces.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Coach: Haydon's picture appears on the cover of a magazine because his team have won in the tournaments, so Haydon goes out and buys them all.
9:10 — E.N.G.: The career of Susan, who is running for the city mayor's post, is finished as a politician because of a TV report.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Devices and Designs: The police still try to solve the new murder case!
11:10 — Silbs. "The big hurt": Lily and her sister attend a meeting, where each person tells his or her story about family matters and personal experiences.

LUNDI

6:00 — Les lettres magiques.
6:10 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about the marine life. "La tragédie des Saumons Rouges".
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A cartoon series.
6:05 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. "Maltre à penser". A comedy series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varietes. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Jazz au mildem. A variety program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique. The agriculture magazine on Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Les sanctuaires sauvages. "Kriger, l'Eden austral". A documentary program.
6:30 — Maguy. "Compagnons d'armes". A series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — International Circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — Fatale Obsession. A French film.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A scientific magazine.



Coach on
Friday at
8:30 pm

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): You will find some real bargains if you shop carefully. Watch your budget. Do not let yourself get painted into an emotional corner. A short trip may be part of your plans.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Original ideas abound! Getaway from work and drive into the country. An older person who has travelled widely will share his knowledge. Put aside false pride and work to improve a relationship.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Anything that will bring you into closer harmony with an older person is favoured. Weekends center on domestic matters. There is some potential for disagreements. Avoid overreacting to a suggestion.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Money — and the best way to make it — is on your mind. Family members make some excellent suggestions. Spend time with a friend you have not seen for ages. Get more exercise.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): What is hidden may be revealed. Examine all aspects of your current financial situation. Marriage is in the spotlight. Your popularity increases. Protect your reputation. Your prestige is on the line.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): The emphasis this week is on children, creativity and significant changes. Recent financial pressures subside. Social encounters could lead to new business contacts. Listen to the advice of a friend.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Your personal plans will move ahead. Avoid scattering your energies. The financial picture is bright. You find a kindred spirit in an unlikely setting. Spend more time with small groups.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Self-improvement projects will build your confidence. A deal is closed, bringing in more income. Keep your diet and exercise resolutions, but do not go to extremes.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Honing a special talent can lead to greater income. Consider practicality before investing your money. Break a bad habit that could undermine your health. Married couples find their bonds deepening.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): A favorite hobby can be turned into a money-making project. Your foresight serves you well in business. A loved one may pressure you for an answer. Ask for more time. Adventure beckons!

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): The money picture brightens. Listen to some unusual advice. You are trusted by those you respect. Be aware of your tendency to see people through rose-colored glasses.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Slow your pace in order to be thorough. Details are more important than ever. Work from a background position. Listen and learn. Patience is needed when dealing with delicate matters.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are bouncy, noisy and good-natured. They attract people like a magnet and will make new friends quickly. However, these children often drop one set of friends for another when they move to a different job or neighborhood. Comedy comes easily to them. They can use their gift for gab very effectively in a sales career. Count on these youngsters to prefer sports that require thought and technique rather than strength and endurance. Sympathetic and generous, they perform more than their share of good deeds.

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Would You Believe.....

It only takes three drinks to give a 110-pound person a blood alcohol reading of 0.10, which most states use as the legal limit for driving.

Ozone depletion warnings are becoming common in Australia.

The Philippine Islands have about 100 active volcanic centers.

Sound waves actually make it through metal much faster than they go through air.

Nearly 9 million U.S. military personnel served in the Vietnam War.

The outlaw Billy the Kid is said to have committed his first murder at age 12.

Extended periods of weightlessness can make a person shrink.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Damascus Hands

THE DAMASCUS Bridge Association organized their first international festival which was a success though of all difficulties that usually arise in similar occasions.

Mohamed Ali Sbarif, Wael Wattar, Moath Delab, Assem Hussami, Faisal Abu Hammoud and Lamees Tabaa formed a homogeneous team to take care of everything and everybody, specially the Jordanian players with lot of care and generosity though of some of our badly timed demands.

The final result is a festival that we all hope to go on stronger and stronger.

Back to a hand from the open pairs event which I played with Marwan Ghanem and ranked a somehow disappointing fourth.

♠ J
♥ 3
♦ A 9 8 7 6 5
♣ A Q 6 4 2

N
W
E
S

♠ A 8 5
♥ A K Q 4
♦ K J 10 4
♣ K 7

WEST

1 ♠
2 ♠ (1)
4 ♠ (3)
5 ♠ (4)
5 ♠ (3)

EAST

1 ♥
4 ♥ (2)
4 ♥ (3)
5 ♥ (3)
6 ♥

- (1) Minors two suited, 5-5 at least and 11-13 points.
- (2) Fixing diamonds and ordering Cue bidding.
- (3) Cue bidding, the first cue bid by each side guarantees an Ace outside the agreed upon suit.
- (4) One or three of the agreed upon suit three top honors.

What was East's problem? Why didn't he bid the grand slam? To him, he knew that their side is missing the Queen or the Ace of diamonds, if the Ace was the missed card, there was nothing more than the small slam.

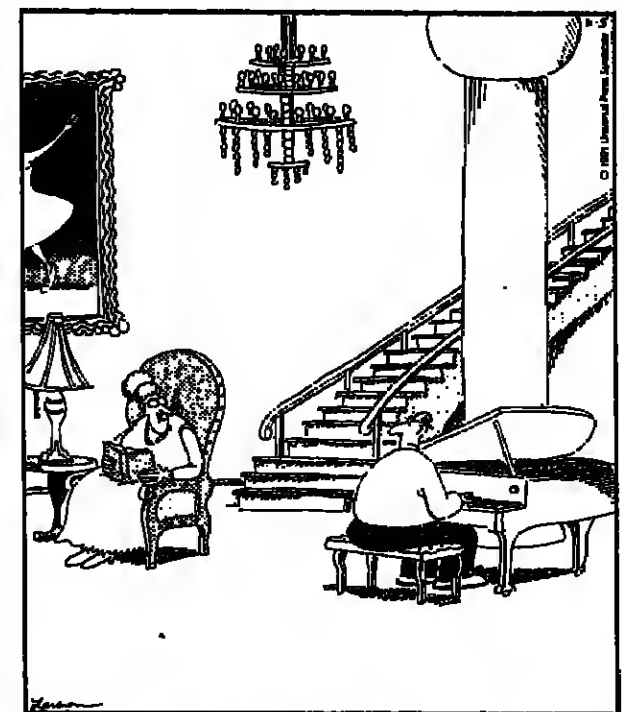
But if the missing honor was the Queen, then the grand slam is highly probable. East could have made a grand slam try by bidding 5N instead of 6♦ and west in view of his diamond Ace and the sixth diamond card would have bid it. An improvement still could be added by using the 5N as a relay for the trump suit description and the answers are:

- 6 ♠ The Queen of trump.
6 ♥ The Ace of trump.
6 ♦ The Ace of trump with additional length.

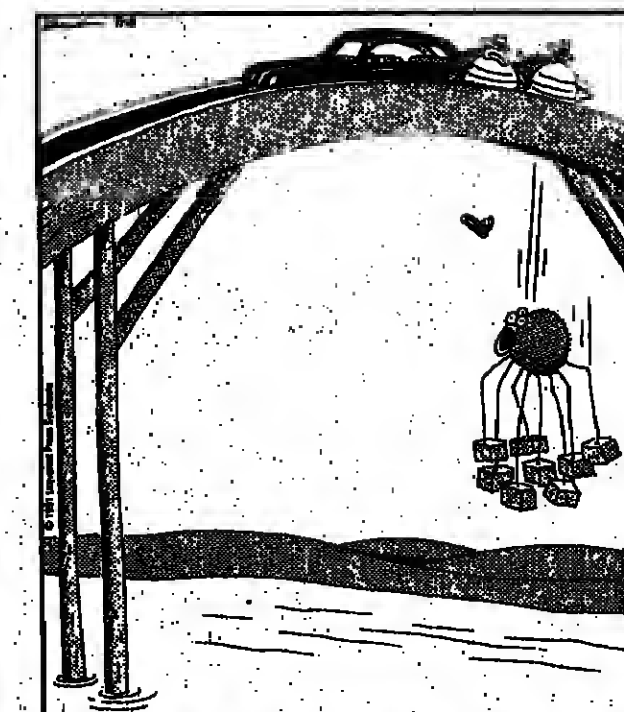
The first three bids were typical of a supers precision sequence, what if you play natural? I believe it would lead to the same sequence. After 1♦ then 2♦ by opener, responder would fix the diamonds and the bidding continues similarly.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



In 12th-century Pisa, Italy, the construction firm of Morrell and Sons, whose members were all afflicted with a genetic disorder in which the left leg was considerably shorter than the right, began work on a new tower.



The spider Matta at work

